

T R A V E L S
T H R O U G H
S P A I N,

IN THE YEARS 1775 AND 1776.

IN WHICH SEVERAL MONUMENTS OF ROMAN
AND MOORISH ARCHITECTURE ARE
ILLUSTRATED BY ACCURATE
DRAWINGS TAKEN ON
THE SPOT.

By *HENRY SWINBURNE*, Esq.

RIEN N'EST BEAU QUE LE VRAI; LE VRAI SEUL EST AIMABLE.
BOILEAU.

THE SECOND EDITION; TO WHICH IS ADDED, A JOURNEY
FROM BAYONNE TO MARSEILLES.

V O L II.

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TRAVELS

THROUGH

SPAIN.

LETTER XXX.

Seville, April 8, 1776.

ALAS! all our schemes upon Africa came to nothing: the inflexible west wind continued blowing with uninterrupted fury, till the time fixed for our stay at Gibraltar was elapsed. At first we intended to cross to Tetuan, and there hire horses or mules to carry us over land to Tangiers, which would have afforded an opportunity of seeing a good deal of the country:

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but

but this project was dropped, in consequence of an order issued out by the emperor of Morocco, prohibiting all Christians from approaching, or even looking upon the holy city of Tetuan, where some Englishmen had lately taken liberties with the Moorish women. Being disappointed in our first plan, we pitched upon that of running over to Tangiers, and from thence making an excursion into the inland parts. Both these hopes were defeated by the contrary winds, and we were under the necessity of giving up so favourite a point, which, you may believe, was a most sensible mortification to us both.

We returned to Cadiz by our former route, some trifling deviations excepted; one of which was, to visit the almost imperceptible remains of the city of Carteia, where Cneius, son of Pompey the Great, took refuge after the battle of Munda. These ruins, of which scarce any thing but part of a wall
is

is to be seen, stand on a rising ground at the mouth of a little river, which falls into the north-west corner of the bay. Writers have blundered strangely about the situation of this town, some placing it at Algeçiras, or Old Gibraltar, and others so far off as Tariff. The rubbish and the quantity of its own coins found here, which are common enough among the Jews of Gibraltar, leave no room to doubt of the truth of the tradition which fixes it upon this spot. In passing the woods beyond *Los Varios*, we raised a prodigious eagle of the golden kind: our servants, who went before, took it for a boy muffled up in a yellowish cloak, and were so surpris'd when it took wing, that we could not prevail upon the man who carried the blunderbuss to fire at it, till it was got out of reach. Its colour was a dusky yellow shaded with green, its head very smooth and dark; about the belly it was of a muddy brown.

4 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

At nightfall we came to a farm-house belonging to the duke of Medina Sidonia, where the servants, in the absence of the master farmer, refused to give us leave to pass the night. One of our men being dispatched into the field, brought the farmer with him, very much out of humour at his house being made an inn of, and fully determined to pack us off about our business, as he suspected us to be little better than rogues and smugglers; indeed the appearance of our messenger was not unfavourable to that opinion. St. Germain exhibited a set of stern features, with a thick black beard; an old laced hat fiercely cocked hanging over his eyes; a military jacket, across which was slung a scimitar and a pair of pistols; dirty leather spatter-dashes, a hoarse voice, strange language, and foreign accent. All this together could hardly, in such a country, convey the idea of any thing but a captain of banditti.

ditti. When the farmer entered his courtyard, and saw such a formidable set of armed men in possession of his castle, he thought it advisable to alter his tone, and be very civil. We accepted his offer of a new barn or granary, where we pitched our tents, supped, and slept very comfortably, having previously stuffed with straw the holes which had been left in the wall for the free ingress and egress of the pigeons.

These farms are very extensive, and entirely unconnected with their neighbours. Each farm has its own baker, who twice a week distributes a certain quota of bread to every house-servant, herdsman, plough-boy, and shepherd. The plain about the house is a deep rich soil, the pasturage luxuriant, but in many places over-run with weeds and rank grass; a muddy rivulet winds through the flats, and is often a very troublesome pass for travellers.

We met with nothing remarkable on the road to Vegel; storks, whoopoops, and a fox, were the only living creatures we saw. The sun grew so extremely powerful, that we were glad to pass the noon-tide hours under a large tree before the door of one of the *siete molinos*, by the side of a brook. The miller and his neighbours were very civil, and furnished us with a table, chairs, glasses, and every thing necessary for our repast, one of the most delicious I ever made. The old and young formed a circle round us, while we devoured our cold ham and turkey. As I perceived one of the young fellows smile and look very arch, I told him I hoped he was not scandalized at our eating meat in Lent, as we were allowed that liberty, as travellers. "No," "no," replied he, "not I indeed; for I know you belong to a happy set of people, with whom *to-day* is always the *holiday*, and to-morrow the *vigil* and *fast*."

His

His joke made us laugh, and set all his companions in a roar: in the height of our mirth and good-humour, a little old woman ventured to ask a taste of a bumper of Malaga, which being the bottom of a bottle I had given my man to drink; he endeavoured to put her off, with telling her that it was the wine of the Moors, consequently ungodly, and such as a zealous Spaniard would think himself poisoned were he to put it to his lips; however the old dame begged she might taste it out of curiosity, and having once got the glass into her hands, swallowed every drop of the wine at one gulp, to the great astonishment of poor St. Germain: to comfort him, she assured him she should have a better opinion of the Moors as long as she lived, since they made and drank such excellent liquor.

In about three hours ride we got to Chiclana, and next day hired a bark to carry us to Cadiz. The rowing down the

river was very pleasant, as by its continual winding we kept in sight of the pretty hill of Chiclana, till we passed through the arches of the bridge of Suaço into the bay. The channel through the shallows is very narrow and crooked. The king's dock-yards at the Caraccas lie near the entrance ; and farther down is the Trocadero, or magazines and docks for merchantmen. The approach to the city is beautiful ; but the slowness of our motion, retarded by contrary winds and currents, made us heartily sick of our water party.

On the 3d of April we left Cadiz, and in less than an hour landed at Port Saint Mary, where we were received and entertained for three days by General Count Alexander O'Reilly, with every possible demonstration of politeness and cordiality. This gentleman has been of late so much talked of, that I was eager to seize the opportunity

opportunity of passing some time with him. To attempt to draw his character is far above my powers, or those of any three day's acquaintance. It would be unfair and presumptuous to decide upon the merits or demerits of any man on such slight grounds. He appears to be very active, intelligent, and severe, in the post of inspector-general of the Spanish infantry, an employment of great business. I believe him skilled in tactics; to have read a great deal in his more advanced time of life (for I don't imagine his education furnished him with any great stock of learning); to have seen with a penetrating eye, and to have studied profoundly the characters and weaknesses of men. His intrepidity in facing, and steadiness in conquering, all difficulties, that may lie in his way to preferment, are sufficiently known and variously descanted upon: his memory is prodigious; his

his judgment of men and things quick and precise, perhaps too peremptory. He has much ready wit at command, especially when he has a mind to turn the laugh against any particular person, in which case he is accused of often carrying the joke too far; and I don't know but he may owe some of his many enemies to the ridicule he has sometimes thrown upon them. Some think him rather too fond of talking, and of making himself the subject of his discourse, but they must acknowledge he speaks with great eloquence in a variety of languages. His countenance and figure are rather comely; but a wound in his knee causes him to limp, an imperfection which has afforded his enemies great scope for raillery; the king's fondness for him bears him up against all their efforts to ruin him; his majesty, who thinks himself indebted to O'Reilly for his life, in the sedition of Madrid,

Madrid,* supports him with inflexible constancy. When the new road was making to the palace of the Pardo, a little, ugly ever-green oak was found to stand in the line marked out for the highway. This tree, by its oddity and solitary position, had attracted the notice and gained the favour of the king, who forbade the engineers to meddle with it. In spite of all the remonstrances of the minister and surveyors, the oak still remains standing in the middle of the road; the king often shews it to his courtiers, and, observing with a smile, that it has no friend but himself, calls it O'Reilly.

The only morning we had free from rain, we employed in a ride to Sanlucar, to see the mouth of the Guadalquivir, the ancient Boëtis, where the fleets of Spain were wont

* He rode into the crowd of rioters, and shot a fellow dead that had taken up a stone and was going to throw it at the king.

to rendezvous, before Cadiz was made the staple for Indian goods, and before the bar at the mouth became so considerable as to impede the navigation of large vessels.

The ground rises very beautifully west of Saint Mary's; it is a perfect garden: spring, which is now in full vigour, and every hedge and bush covered with flowers, rendered our jaunt delightful. The kermes or holme-oak is in great beauty, quite on fire with the scarlet gall-nuts of the little insect which produces the false cochineal. Near the Guadalquivir, the country is arable, with few inclosures. In times of remote antiquity Sanlucar was called Fanum Luciferi. It was once the port of Seville, and at the seasons for the arrival or departure of the fleets, the most stirring place in Europe: at present it is a neat, quiet town, without much business. The small ships that carry on its trade, lie half a league farther up in the Ansa, where the
Indian

Indian flota used to moor. The river is wide and very rough at the bar ; the opposite shore so dead a flat, that it is difficult to distinguish it from the water. I fauntered along the Playa de Sanlucar, without meeting a soul : how changed from what it was in the days of Cervantes, when it was crowded with the busy and the idle, the honest and the profligate !

On Friday evening we came to Xeres. I was much surprised to hear, from good authority, that this city contains no less than forty thousand inhabitants, of which a twentieth part are ecclesiastics. We went next morning to the monastery of Carthusian monks, a few miles off, remarkable for its breed of horses, and for a very fine view over the plains towards the bay and shipping of Cadiz. The day was sultry, and I could with pleasure have lolled it out in the prior's garden, under the shade of a noble lemon-tree, refreshed by the soft perfumes ascending
on

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on every side from the neighbouring orchards.

This convent, founded in 1482 by Alvares de Valleta, a citizen of Xeres, is grand, and well laid out: water is conveyed into every public hall and private cell. We were disappointed of the principal end of our journey, which was to see their fine stallions, for they were all out in the country at the covering-stables. The earth, in the cementaries of Xeres, has the quality of preserving corpses uncorrupted for years and ages.

Upon leaving Xeres, we found the roads much the worse for the heavy rains; and two days were spent in travelling a few miles through stiff, deep clays, where we expected to stick fast every instant, as the wheels were clogged to a great height. We saw some bustards in these plains.

This morning we arrived in Seville, which appears to great advantage from the hills, at
the

the distance of a couple of miles. The soil upon the heights is sandy, planted with pine-trees and vines, inclosed with hedges of various kinds of shrubs, among which there is a great quantity of yellow jasmine. Round the city is a great plain of corn-lands, pastures, and gardens; the Guadalquivir, which runs through it, is very subject to overflow its banks, and lay all the adjacent country under water; the lowlands by the river side are common, and two years cropped with corn, the third left to run up into grass.

When we entered the city, our muleteers were obliged to ride as postillions on the foremost mules, to comply with the orders of the magistrates for preventing stoppages and accidents in the streets, which are uncommonly crooked and narrow.

L E T T E R XXXI.

Seville, April 9, 1776.

WE arrived yesterday morning in this capital of Andalusia; and as soon as we had dined and dressed ourselves, walked out with no particular object in view, but merely to stroll through the streets, by way of making ourselves acquainted with the city; chance led us into the court of the Alcazar, or royal palace, and the centry directed us to a gallery, which he said would bring us to the gardens. You have often heard me launch out in praise of some hanging-gardens in Italy, so refreshing and voluptuous in the summer evenings; this of the Alcazar is exactly such another; several parterres, surrounded by galleries and terraces, intersected by myrtle hedges and jasmine bowers, and perfumed by clumps of orange-trees, have also the advantage of abundance
of

of water. A large party of sprightly damsels and young men that were walking here were much indebted to us for making the water-works play, by means of a small gratuity to the keeper. Nothing can be more delicious than these sprinklings in a hot day; all the flowers seemed to acquire new vigour; the odours, exhaled from the orange, citron, and lemon trees, grew more poignant, more balsamic, and the company ten times more alive than they were: it was a true April shower. We fauntered near two hours in the groves, till we were quite in ecstasy with sweets. 'Tis a most heavenly residence in spring; and I should think the summer heats might be tempered and rendered supportable enough, by the profusion of water which Seville enjoys.

Philip the Fifth resided here many years towards the end of his life, and passed his time in drawing with the smoke of a candle

on deal boards, or angling for tench in a little reservoir, by torch light.

On our first entrance into the palace, which is a *paslificio* of Saracenic, Conventual, and Grecian architecture, I was much taken with the principal front of the inner-court; a piece of as good Morisco work as any I had yet seen. Having read that the Moors built one part of this palace, I concluded I was admiring something as old as the Mahometan kings of Seville; but upon closer examination was not a little surprised to find *lions, castles*, and other armorial ensigns of Castille and Leon, interwoven with the Arabesque foliages; and still more so, to see, in large Gothic characters, an inscription informing me, that these edifices were built in the fourteenth century, by the most mighty king of Castille and Leon, Don Pedro.

Within this portico is a court ninety-three feet by sixty-nine: it is flagged with marble,
and

and furrounded with a colonnade of white marble columns of the Corinthian order, elegantly proportioned, and well executed ; the walls behind are covered with grotesque designs in the Moorish taste : Charles V. has contrived to foist his eagle and his *plus outre* into every corner. The great hall adjoining, called the *Media naranja*, or half-orange, from the form of its cupola, is richly gilt and stuccoed in the same manner. Here I own my little knowledge of architecture was fairly nonplussed ; I was convinced that the portion of the fabric, called by the travel-writers the *Moorish part*, was the work of Peter the Cruel, who might easily procure skilful artists from the kings of Granada, with whom he was connected most part of his reign ; but there was no accounting for the Corinthian pillars, unless I supposed them to have belonged to some Roman edifice, destroyed for the sake of supplying materials for the palace, or to have been

placed by the emperor under the old gallery, in lieu of others in a barbarous style or ruinous state. Next to the court of the lions, in the Alhambra, this square is the most pleasing piece of Arabic building I have met with, though in delicacy of design and execution, the ornaments of the Sevillian are much inferior to those of the Granadine palace.

Near the western entrance was formerly to be seen a stone seat, with its canopy supported by four pillars, all now destroyed. Here that severe judge, Don Pedro, sat to decide causes, and give sentence upon malefactors. His justice was so very inflexible, that in those days of feudal anarchy, it was looked upon in the light of wanton cruelty and tyranny; perhaps that unfortunate monarch owes to the hatred of those he meant to reduce to order, much of the obloquy which has been so plentifully bestowed upon him by historians, who have painted him to us as a tyrant so bloody, so wicked,

wicked, as almost to exceed the bounds of probability. In Andalusia, where he fixed his residence, and seemed most to delight, his memory is not held in the same abhorrence. The Sevillian writers speak of him very differently; and instead of his usual appellation of *Pedro el Cruel*, distinguish him by that of *El Justiciero*. It is certain that his bastard-brother and murderer, Henry of Transtamare, was guilty of crimes full as atrocious as any of those imputed to Don Pedro; but as he destroyed him, his family, and adherents, the friends of the new spurious race of monarchs were left at full liberty to blacken the characters of the adverse party, without fear of being called to an account for calumny, or even contradicted. Truth is now out of our reach; and for want of proper proofs to the contrary, we must sit down contented with what history has left us, and allow Don Pedro to have been one

of the most inhuman butchers that ever disgraced a throne.

We devoted this morning to an excursion in search of the ruins of Italica, where Trajan, Hadrian, and Theodosius the Great, are supposed to have been born; a search it may most properly be called, for we wandered a long league wide of the mark, but had no reason to be sorry for the mistake, whatever our Catalonian running-footman might think of the matter. We took too much to the left, after crossing the river on the bridge of boats, and strayed along the walls of a convent, where the monks were felling the lemons of their gardens through a hole in the wall. The wind was rather brisk, and wafted such perfumes from the orange-groves, as almost lulled us to sleep; the meadows and corn-fields that we rode through were delightful, as rich and luxuriant as any I ever saw in Flanders. On our right hand a range of
orange-

orange-gardens perfumed the breeze before it reached us ; and on the left the Guadalquivir ran winding through the plain. Our soft reveries were disturbed by a full stop, that our runner Christoval made at a gully, where a brook falls into a river. It could only be passed on foot, as there was no bridge but a few yawning planks, on which our horses, however willing, could not pretend to find a footing ; this obliged us to dismount, and send our horses round half a league to join us at the ruins of Italica, which we thought appeared very conspicuous upon a hill before us. The sun was hot, but the spirit of antiquarianism gave us strength and courage to climb up to the platform of Saint John de Alfarache. After sitting a while to take breath under some arborjudas in full flower, we proceeded to explore every corner of the crown of the hill ; it is almost square, inclosed with the ruins of vast towers and bulwarks, built of

cemented mud and pebbles. From the knowledge I had acquired of the different modes of building, since I came into the south of Spain, I ventured to pronounce, that if this was Italica, the Moors had built upon the site, and antiquaries were grossly mistaken when they talked of Roman edifices and amphitheatres; not but that I thought the situation such, as the judicious Romans might have preferred to that of Hispalis, the present Seville, both for beauty and strength. The view from it over that city, the course of the river, and the rich plain, are worth more than the labour it cost us to get so high: at this blooming season of the year, when every thing is in full vegetation, green and fresh, I don't remember to have seen a finer country.

An old peasant set my heart at ease (for I confess I was a little out of humour, as every disappointed virtuoso would have been) by informing us that this was a Moorish castle,

castle, * and that Sevilla Vieja, or old Seville (the name they give to Italica) was a little beyond a great church of Hieronymites, a league to the north, in the skirts of the plain. Our error once discovered, we trotted away through the flats to that convent, and there picked up a fellow without shirt or stockings, with a patched cloak, white hat, and long black beard; which gentleman undertook to shew us the antiquities.

Of the ancient colony of Italica, supposed to have been composed by Scipio of his veteran soldiers, scarce the least vestige remains. It is said the Moors destroyed it, not to have a rival so near Seville, where they intended to fix the seat of their empire; but I doubt this is the mere surmise of some

* After the loss of Seville, the Moors are said to have remained some time at Alfarache, under the government of a kind of king.

modern historian. I could not positively ascertain it, but from a view of the ground, am apt to believe it was built in imitation of Rome, on seven hills, and that the river Boetis ran at the foot of them. By accidental obstructions and banks of sand, accumulated in a long series of inundations, the river may have been driven from its ancient bed, and forced more into the heart of the plain, where it now takes its course. Such an event as this would account for the ruin of so considerable a city as Italica; and without supposing that the Saracens were at the pains of demolishing it, would afford sufficient cause for giving the preference to Seville, which stands upon the Guadalquivir.

On the summit of the first hill are some ruinous brick walls, called *El Palacio*, not in the least remarkable. The peasants that were here at work in the olive-yards, told us, that underneath there had formerly been
found

found columns of silver and brass; but as they were bewitched by some magician, nobody was ever able to draw them up; and now-a-days, not a soul has the courage even to dig for them, as they have all the reason in the world to believe, that the conjurer would twist their heads off for attempting it. This is a popular superstition, which I have found to be common to most countries, wherever any great remains of vaults and ancient edifices are to be seen.

On the most distant eminence are considerable remains of an amphitheatre, built with pebbles, and brick arches; most probably the marble casing has been carried away, or destroyed by burning to lime. The form is a most perfect oval; the arena measures, as near as the corn would allow me to be exact, one hundred yards in its greatest length, and sixty in its greatest breadth; some of the vomitoria, cells, and passages, are yet discernible, but scarce any
traces

traces of the seats ; however I made out twenty rows, two feet six inches wide, and two feet high ; each step of the stairs of communication is one foot high, and one wide. This amphitheatre is now more like Stonehenge than a regular Roman edifice.*

Not far from it is a fine pool of water, in a large vault under the hill ; which I take to be the remains of some aqueduct, as the water is too warm to be near the spring head.

* The corporation of Seville having occasion for stones to embank the river, which, by its frequent inundations, caused great damage to the city, ordered the amphitheatre of Italica to be knocked down. Many hands were employed to batter the walls, and to blow up with gunpowder such parts as resisted the pick-ax. By these means they procured sufficient materials for their embankment ; but, as if the Guadalquivir meant to revenge the cause of taste upon these barbarians, the very first flood swept away the whole fabrick.

Being

Being very hot and hungry, we made the best of our way home, through large plantations of orange-trees, which here grow to the size of moderate timber-trees; the fruit is much more pleasing to the eye, if less so to the palate, than the oranges of Portugal, as the rich blood-colour is admirably contrasted with the bright tint of the leaves.

L E T T E R XXXII.

Seville, April 11, 1776.

SEVILLE is supposed to have been founded by the Phœnicians, who gave it the name of Hispalis: the Romans called it Julia; in after-ages the old name returned, and after a variety of corruptions, seems to have been revived in the modern appellation of Sebilla, or Sevilla, for the Spaniards use both indiscriminately.

Under the Roman government it was embellished

bellished with many magnificent buildings, destined for purposes of public utility and amusement; but I believe the very ruins of those edifices have long ago disappeared.

The Gothic kings resided here, before they removed their court to Toledo.

Musa, the Saracen viceroy, took Seville by storm, soon after the victory obtained at Xeres over king Rodrigo.

In the general confusion that ensued upon the downfall of the kingdom of Cordova, in 1027, Seville became an independant sovereignty, which was annihilated by the violence of the African prince Jusuf Almoravides, who came into Spain in 1097.

Ferdinand the third, king of Castille, (who, in consideration of his great success against the Mahometans, as well as for his sanctity, was canonized after his death, and is still honoured as a saint of the first rank) took Cordova, and many other important places, from the enfeebled, disunited Mussulmen ;

men; drove them from post to post, till he reduced the bounds of their empire to a very confined corner of the peninsula; after a year's siege, he forced Seville to open its gates to him, and acknowledge his sway. Three hundred thousand Moors are said to have left the city upon the capitulation, and to have carried their arms and industry to such countries, as were still obedient to the law of Mahomet. It is difficult to conceive how Seville could continue to be a great and populous town after such an emigration; yet we find it in a few years enlarged, adorned with new buildings, the chief of which was the cathedral, and long enjoying the rank of one of the most considerable cities in Spain.

Its most brilliant epocha was soon after the discovery of America, when all the new-found treasures were poured into Europe from the fleets that returned from the new hemisphere into the Guadalquivir, and made Seville the magazine of its invaluable productions.

productions. The sovereign frequently honoured this place with his presence ; merchants from all parts flocked hither to open houses of commerce, or to provide themselves with goods for foreign markets ; the sailors and adventurers of the Indian fleets rendezvoused here, and with wanton prodigality lavished the wealth, which they had acquired in America. Then indeed was the time, when the Spaniard cried out in the fullness of his heart, *Quien no ha visto Sevilla, no ha visto maravilla.** Its court was then the most splendid in Europe ; its streets were thronged with an immense concourse of people ; its river was crowded with ships, and its keys covered with bales of precious merchandize. Great were the buildings begun, and still vaster the projects for future ones. Its prosperity seemed proof

* He that has not seen Seville has not seen the wonder of the world.

against

against the fickleness of fortune ; but in the course of a very few years, it fell from the highest pitch of grandeur to solitude and poverty, by the danger and embarrassments in the navigation of the Guadalquivir. The superior excellence of the port of Cadiz induced government to order the Galeons to be stationed there for the time to come.

The shape of Seville is circular, without any great rising in the whole space. The walls seem of Moorish construction, or of the ages which immediately followed the dissolution of the Saracen empire ; as I guess by their form and materials. The ditch is filled up in many places. The circumference of the walls is not more than five miles and an half. The suburb of Triana, on the west side of the river, is as large as many towns, but remarkable for nothing but its gloomy Gothic castle,

where, in 1482, the inquisition formed its first establishment in Spain.

The streets of Seville are crooked, dirty, and so narrow, that in most of them two coaches find it difficult to pass a-breast. The widest and handsomest place is the Alameda, or great walk of old elms, in the heart of the city ; it is six hundred yards by one hundred and fifty, decorated with three fountains, and the statues of Hercules, the reputed founder, and Julius Cæsar, the restorer of Seville.

Most of the churches are built and ornamented in so barbarous a style, that I had not the patience to examine them ; the cathedral, the capuchins, and the charidad, are the only sacred edifices really interesting ; the first by its antiquity, size, and reputation ; the two latter by the chef-d'œuvres of Murillo.

The cathedral is more cried up than I think it deserves ; it is by no means equal
to

to York minster, for lightness, elegance, and Gothic delicacy. The clustered pillars are too thick, the ailes too narrow, and the choir, by being placed in the center, spoils the whole coup d'œil, and renders the rest of the church little better than a heap of long passages. The ornamental parts are but clumsy imitations of the models left by the Moors. Not one of the great entrances or porches is finished ; and to disfigure the whole pile, a long range of buildings, in the modern style, has been added to the old part.

Don Sancho the Brave began this church, near the close of the thirteenth century ; and John the Second finished it about an hundred years after. Its length within is four hundred and twenty feet ; its breadth two hundred and seventy-three ; and its greatest height one hundred and twenty-six. The circumference of each cluster of pillars is forty-two feet. It has nine doors,

eighty windows, and eighty altars, at which
 five hundred masses are said every day.
 The pavement is brick, but they are now
 new-laying it with marble. The great
 gate of the cloysters (the only remains
 of the mosque) is a piece of handsome
 Moorish architecture. The large orange-
 trees that shade the fountains in the middle
 of the cloysters, make them a most agreea-
 ble walk. At one angle stands the Giralda,
 or belfry, a tower three hundred and fifty
 feet high, and fifty square : the Moors
 erected it about the year 1000 : the Chris-
 tians have added two stories, and a pro-
 digious weathercock, which, altogether,
 agree much better with the ancient building
 than patchwork is wont to do : the sculpture
 of the Saracenic part, which is two hun-
 dred feet high, is in a much simpler taste
 than their artists were accustomed to display
 in public works. The effect of this tower
 rising far above every edifice in Seville, is
 extremely

extremely noble. Tradition relates, that to form a solid foundation for it, the Moors made a deep hole, into which they cast all the marble and stone monuments of the Romans that could be found : when repairs have been necessary, and the ground has been opened near the bottom, many broken ornaments and inscriptions have been discovered. The whole work is brick and mortar ; a winding stair-case is contrived within, so easy and wide, as to admit of two horsemen riding a-breast, above half way up. For some purpose, unknown to us, the architect has made the solid masonry in the upper half, just as thick again as that in the lower, though on the outside the belfry is all the way of the same dimensions.

Murillo has adorned the Charidad and Capuchins with several most valuable pictures, which may be ranked among his very best performances ; his manner puts

me much in mind of Guercino; but the characters of his figures are often mean, and copied from models in the lowest class of citizens: the design of his hands and arms is also generally faulty, as he gives them rather too great a length; however, there is such expression, such truth of colouring, and intelligence in the composition of his groupes, that a trifling defect of that kind is easily overlooked.

In the first of those churches, Saint Elizabeth, queen of Hungary, curing some lepers, and other diseased persons, by anointing them with holy oil, is an admirable picture; there is an old woman and a boy under the hand of the saint, full of truth, character, and expression. In the representation of Moses striking the rock, are several excellent figures, and a very beautiful white horse.

In the church of the capuchins, out of many of his pictures, which hang in every chapel

chapel on each side, those that gave me most pleasure, were a Saint Anthony of Padua, holding the infant Jesus on a book ; a friar embracing Christ crucified, who stoops from the cross, and brings down an arm to press the saint's shoulder ; an adoration of the shepherds ; and Saint Thomas of Villanova, archbishop of Valencia, distributing alms at his palace-gate ; which last I like the best of the whole collection.

In our way to this church, which stands without the walls, we looked into many others ; but found nothing particular in any, except in one, a list of the books lately condemned by the inquisition ; among many others we saw the famous *Fray Gerundio* by father Isla ; some common French books relative to geography ; some of Voltaire's late publications ; and the political history of the European settlements by Raynal, prohibited not only as favouring of deism and infidelity, but also as contain-

ing many passages derogatory to the glory of the Spanish nation.

We returned by the great road round the walls, passing near the gate and tower where Saint Hermenegild was put to death by order of his father Leovigild, king of the Goths, for deserting arianism, and for raising an unsuccessful rebellion against him.

Further on we walked under the Caños de Carmona, or the great aqueduct ; which is esteemed by the Sevillian historians, one of the most wonderful monuments of antiquity existing in the universe. We were much disappointed to find none of that beauty or grandeur they talk so much of ; on the contrary, it is rather ugly, its arches unequal, the architecture neglected, and its direction very crooked. The conduit is so leaky, that a rivulet is formed of the waste water. Authors are divided in their opinions concerning this aqueduct ; whether to look upon it as a Roman, or as a Moorish work.

work. I believe it was originally planned and built by the former ; but the innumerable repairs it has undergone have almost obliterated every trace of their manner : however, what it wants in shew, it certainly makes up for in utility ; it conveys a very abundant supply of water several leagues from a place called Alcalá. The rocks are there bored, in various directions, an immense length of way under ground, in order to intercept every little runner, and collect so considerable a stream as to turn several mills, and bring such a volume of water down to Seville, that almost every house in town has the benefit of it ; except those of the quarters, which are supplied by the pipes from the fountain of the archbishop.

We re-entered the city at the new gate, which forms an elegant termination to a handsome street of regular houses one story high, behind the Alcazar. The snuff manufactory

nufactory is fituated in this ftreet : for the more convenient carrying on this lucrative branch of commerce, Ferdinand the Sixth erected a moft magnificent, roomy palace, in a grand but rather heavy ftyle of architecture. It was finifhed in 1756. One thoufand men are employed constantly, at the rate of fix or four reals per diem, for about nine hours work. One hundred and eighty mules work twenty-eight mills or machines for grinding and mixing the tobacco with the red earth of Almazarron ; the exceffive adulteration with this earth, practifed of late years by the directors, has occafioned a prodigious falling off in the exportation of this commodity, and unlefs they alter their method, the trade will foon be confined to Spain and its dominions ; the northern markets have long refufed to take any off their hands. The leaves of the tobacco are imported from Cuba and the Brafil ; the beft fnuff is called *Grance*.

Thirty-two reals a pound is the current price of the snuff, but none is allowed to be sold by retail in the manufactory. We visited every part of the house, at the hazard of being suffocated ; in one room we found four hundred and sixty men sitting at work, making *cigarros**, and tying them up in bunches worth four reals a-piece, for each of which they are paid for their labour four quartos. The officer that attended us, told us that the neat profits of last year, upon all the snuff and tobacco sold out at the office, amounted to more than six millions of dollars.

Near the cathedral is the *Lonja*, or exchange, formerly a place of great resort, but now, being deserted by merchants, it is appropriated to other uses ; I believe to the holding of some inferior courts of justice.

* These are little rolls of tobacco, which the Spaniards smoke without a pipe.

The building is square, its style plain and noble, and it remains a monument of the good taste of the Spaniards at that brilliant period of their history, which takes in the reign of Charles the Fifth, and of his son Philip. The Lonja was erected in 1583, upon a design of Juan de Herrera.

Olavides, the present Intendant, is said to have great schemes for the embellishment of Seville; but as he is likewise director of all the new colonies in the Sierra Morena, and not upon the most solid footing at court, I doubt he has more projects in hand and idea, than he can possibly bring to bear, during the time he may probably remain in power. *

His

* In 1776 he was taken up and imprisoned in the dungeons of the inquisition, from whence he was brought out to trial for irreligious discourses. The chief witness against him was a friar, once his confidential friend, and employed by him in the ecclesiastical direction of the infant colonies. The sentence

was

His present operation, is to embank with a strong brick wall, the bed of the river above the town, thereby to turn off the impetuous currents, that have so often burst their way into the very heart of the city. Along the banks he has planted avenues of an ever-green tree, very like a poplar. It was brought from South America, and is called *Sapota*.

The great hospital de la Sangre, and the college of Sant Elmo, founded for a marine school, are more remarkable for their size than for any other merit ; the other buildings are little worthy of notice. The police of this city is very severe, but perhaps not uniformly and impartially so. My

was pronounced against Olavides with great solemnity : he was condemned to imprisonment in a convent, and to an exemplary penance ; but soon after was suffered to make his escape to France, where he has resided ever since.

man

man has been a day and a night in prison, only for carrying my pistols through the streets to the gunsmith's. There has been as much writing as would do for a moderate suit in chancery, but it seems to be cheap enough, as I believe the value of a guinea will procure his release, and pay the fees, as well as the expences of the procedures.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

Eccija, April 12, 1778.

HAVING seen every thing in Seville that was recommended to our notice, we left it yesterday, and came to lie at Carmona; the road is through a perfect forest of olive-trees, which are much hacked and pruned, and set at the regular distance of twenty-seven feet asunder.

Carmona

Carmona is a large town, standing boldly on a high hill. Its castle, in ruins, covers a vast extent of ground, and contains many buildings that served for palace and fortress to Don Pedro the Cruel, and his family. He placed his main hope in the strength of this castle, and in the faithful attachment of Don Martin Lopez de Cordova, grand-master of the order of Calatrava, to whose care he entrusted his sons Sancho and Diego, whom he had had by a lady he had taken to his bed, after the death of his famous mistress Maria de Padilla. Henry of Transtamare, after the defeat and murder of Pedro in the plains of Montiel, laid siege to Carmona, took it by capitulation, together with the children and treasures of the late king, and basely breaking his word of honour, caused Lopez to be beheaded for his obstinate resistance.

Like every place in this province, Carmona makes a figure in Roman history,
and

and has many remains of their walls, inscriptions, &c. to shew as proofs of its ancient importance. The country about it is hilly and champaign, but far from unpleasant, as it is all green, and has some wood and water in different parts of the view.

We dined to-day at the solitary venta of Monclova, and rode on hither to get a sight of the town, but it proved farther off than we imagined, and it was dark before we got in. We were obliged to leave the carriage with our baggage at Carmona, to get the axletree mended, and hitherto we have had no tidings of it, so shall lie down in our clothes on a few chairs.

The road from Seville hither is better than any I have seen in Spain, some of the new road near Barcelona excepted ; it is all gravel, which not being the foil of the country, must have been brought from a great distance, and has subsisted in all probability,
unaltered

unaltered and unrepaired since the Moors were driven out of Andalusia; it is raised above the level of the fields, and commonly runs in a direct line from west to east. As there are no visible remains of pavement, I rather attribute it to the Saracens than to the Romans, although both nations are known to have attended particularly to the highways of this province, and to have made several causeways and roads of communication between the great towns.

We passed through La Luisiana, a tract of land lately brought into cultivation by a colony of Germans, who have their habitations not far from the side of the highway, placed at regular distances of two or three hundred yards, all built after one simple model, with an allotment of corn-land round the house: this is the most western of the new settlements.

Eccija seems prettily situated upon the river Xenil, and to have some pleasant walks, and an astonishing number of steeples.

Cordova, April 14th.

Yesterday we dined at La Carlotta, another plantation of Germans of great extent, made eight years ago, in a hilly forest. The houses are scattered about. The parish-church, inn, director's house, some shops and dwelling houses for handicraft men, form a very neat village on an eminence : as they have left standing all the evergreen oaks of any tolerable size, the face of the country is very handsome, the green corn being checquered with groves, clumps, and single trees. About twenty or thirty acres is an allotment for a family, under the obligation of remaining on the spot ten years ; during which period, they are subject to no taxes of any kind. At the expiration of the term, if they choose to settle here, the land is made over to them in fee, and they commence payment of a small quit-rent. The king furnishes them with feed corn, but they

they are obliged to replace it in his granaries after harvest; except the walls of a house, and some trifling instruments of husbandry, this is all the encouragement they meet with; and as this is by no means a sufficient help, and much of the soil is poor and hungry, and falls off at every crop, there is great reason to apprehend, that this colony will prove one of those ephemeral productions that so often spring up in monarchical governments, and almost immediately after birth sink into their original nothing. Some hundreds of the Germans have died since the establishment, through poverty, intemperance, bad food, and change of climate.

The country, as you approach Cordova, is all bare, hilly, and arable. The view of the river, city, and woods, on the opposite hills, is extremely agreeable and picturesque.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Cordova, April 15, 1776.

WE have ferreted out the few things in this city, that can be accounted worthy of any attention from a traveller; have ridden up and down the environs as often as the weather would permit, and have studied the mosque by day-light, and by torch-light; but still this temple is so intricate a labyrinth, and contains so many extraordinary things, that I shall take one or two farther surveys of it, before I attempt to describe it. The abundance of subject-matter, and its celebrity, will entitle it to figure in a letter apart. This shall be dedicated to objects of less importance, and when I shall have informed you of the present state of the town, it will be proper to select for you, from the best authors I have by me, some
curious

curious particulars relative to its ancient history.

The environs are delightful, and enjoy a rich variety of woods, hillocks, and culture, vivified by abundance of limpid water. The flat land produces olives and corn, and much of it is laid out in gardens, where the fruit-trees grow to a remarkable size, and seem perfectly clean and healthy. The upper-grounds are over-run with evergreen oaks and pines, which the farmers grub up in the good spots to plant olive and carob bean trees in their stead. The farm houses are built in the midst of inclosures and orchards of orange-trees. Corn-land is let for so many measures of corn, either a fixed number for each harvest, or an indefinite quantity according to the crops; the highlands are all let out at a certain rent in cash.

The Guadalquiver runs before the town, which it has worn into a perfect half-moon. A bridge of sixteen arches, defended by a

large Moorish tower, leads from the south into Cordova, and near the end of the bridge stands the mosque, now the cathedral. The walls of the town are in many places just as the Romans left them: the method they have followed here in laying the stones is rather different from what I have observed in other Roman edifices. Here each long square stone is terminated and flanked by two thin ones set up an end.

The streets are crooked and dirty; few of the public or private buildings conspicuous for their architecture; the new hospital for the education of orphans, has something bold and simply noble in its cupola and portico. The palaces of the inquisition and of the bishop are extensive, and well situated.

We are just returned from a bullfeast, where no horsemen were allowed, as the animals were not of a breed sufficiently noble to try the lance upon. One poor bull, that would not fight, was very dexterously

ously run through the heart ; two oxen were tormented a little, and then sent to the adjoining shambles ; and a small cow, after behaving mighty well as to jumping and skipping, got a reprieve in consideration of her excessive leanness. It was too tiresome even to make us laugh, but we are in hopes of seeing this exhibition in greater perfection at Aranjuez. The motive of this paltry spectacle is extremely laudable. The Corregidor (i. e. the triennial governor of the town, always a native of a different part of Spain from that wherein he is appointed to superintend the police) gives these little shews to the people on Sundays and festivals ; and out of the profits and hire of the seats, raises a sum sufficient to carry on the new walk he is laying out under the walls.

After the entertainment, the nobility paraded about in their coaches ; and I was surprised to see such elegance as I little expected in an inland town in Spain ; very handsome

English and French carriages, smart liveries, and excellent horses. The nobility of this place live in a manner not to be met with any where else in the kingdom; if their union and mutual emulation in rendering society agreeable be such as they are represented to me, they deserve the highest encomiums from every lover of humanity: thirty families or more, meet every night at a house chosen by rotation, where the ladies do the honours of genteel refreshments, merry good-natured conversation, and some low card-playing. The general run of the women seems to be handsome; some we saw on the walks were extremely beautiful.

Having thus marked out the little that modern Cordova has to shew, give me leave to carry you back to more remote times; to a period, when it figured to much greater advantage on the theatre of politics and commerce. This is not be fixed at the
tim

time of its being a Roman colony *, though it boasts of having given birth to Seneca and Lucan ; nor in the ages during which it acknowledged the dominion of the Goths. To the Saracen Caliphs of the Ommiad family Cordova is indebted for its glory ; as we hear but little of it before the year 755, when Abdoulrahman, only heir-male of the Ommiad line, passed over from Africa, at the head of a few desperate followers, and found means to raise a rebellion in Spain. After a battle fought on the banks of the Guadalquiver, in which he overthrew the lieutenant of the Abassid Caliph of Damascus, Abdoulrahman became king of all the Moorish possessions in the South of Spain, and in 759 fixed his royal residence at Cordova.

* Strabo says, that Corduba was founded by Marcellus, and was the first Roman colony established in Spain. Its Latin appellation was *Patricia*.

Then

Then began those flourishing ages of Arabian gallantry and magnificence, which rendered the Moors of Spain superior to all their contemporaries in arts and arms, and made Cordova one of the most splendid cities of the world. Agriculture and commerce prospered under the happy sway of this hero; and the face of the country was changed from a scene of desolation, which the long wars and harsh government of the viceroys had brought on, into a most populous flourishing state, exceeding in riches, number of inhabitants, activity and industry, any prior or subsequent era of the Spanish history. He added new fortifications to the town, built himself a magnificent palace with delicious gardens, laid causeways through the marshes, made excellent roads to open a ready communication between the great towns, and in 786 began the great mosque, which he did not live to finish.

During the course of two centuries this
court

court continued to be the resort of all professors of the polite arts, and of such as valued themselves upon their military and knightly accomplishments; while the rest of Europe was buried in ignorance, debased by brutality of manners, or distracted by superstitious disputes. England, weakened by its Heptarchy, was too inconsiderable even to be mentioned in the political history of the times; France, though it had a gleam of reputation under Charlemagne, was still a barbarous, unpolished nation; and Italy was in utter confusion, the frequent revolutions and change of masters rendering it impossible for learning, or any thing good, to acquire a permanent footing in so unstable a soil; Greece, though still in possession of the arts and luxury of ancient Rome, had lost all vigour, and seemed absorbed in the most futile of all pursuits; viz. that of scholastic argument, and religious subtilties.

The residence of the Ommiad Caliphs
was

was long conspicuous for its supreme magnificence, and the crowds of learned men, who were allured to it by the protection offered by its sovereigns, the beauty of the country, the wholesomeness of the climate, and the variety of pleasures that returned incessantly in one enchanting round.

Cordova became the centre of politeness, industry, and genius. Tilts and tournaments, with other costly shews, were long the darling pastimes of a wealthy, happy people; and this was the only kingdom in the west, where geometry, astronomy, and physics, were regularly studied and practised; music was no less honoured, for I find that in 844, a famous musician, called Ali Zeriab, came to settle at Cordova, and formed several pupils, who were supposed to equal the most celebrated performers that were ever known, even in the east. That architecture was greatly encouraged, we need no other proof than the great and expensive fabrics undertaken

undertaken and completed by many of these Moorish monarchs: whatever faults may be justly condemned in their manner by the connoisseur, accustomed to the chaste noble graces of the Grecian proportions; certainly nobody can behold what remains of these Moorish edifices, without being strongly impressed with a high idea of the genius of the artists, as well as the grandeur of the princes who carried their plans into execution.

These Sultans not only gave the most distinguished protection to arts and sciences, and to the persons learned in any of them, but were themselves eminently versed in various branches of knowledge. Alkehem the Second collected so immense a quantity of manuscripts, that before the end of his reign, the royal library contained no less than six hundred thousand volumes, of which the very catalogue filled forty huge folios. The university of Cordova was

4 founded

founded by him, and under such favourable auspices, rose to the highest pitch of celebrity.

Abdoulrahman was succeeded by his son Hissém ; whose passion for glory and architecture was not in the least inferior to that of his father. He put the finishing hand to the mosque, which the plunder of the southern provinces of France enabled him to complete in the course of a few years. Several historians relate, that the terror which his name inspired was so great, that the inhabitants of Narbonne, in order to purchase peace and liberty, agreed to transport from their city to Cordova, all materials necessary for the construction of the mosque. This story is hardly credible; Mariana supposes it to have been a sort of fine sand proper for mixing with lime, that the Narbonnese engaged to carry; but if there be any truth in the affair, I should imagine it to be more probable, that they
furnished

furnished him with columns and other monuments of antiquity, which Narbonne abounded with, and which were undoubtedly employed in great quantities in the building of the mosque. The bridge over the Guadalquiver was a work of Hifsem's, after his own plans.

Alkaham succeeded Hifsem.

Abdoulrahman the Second was also passionately fond of building. He was the first that brought supplies of water to Cordova, by means of leaden pipes laid upon aqueducts of stone. The quantity was so considerable that every part of the palace, the mosques, baths, squares, and public edifices, had all of them their fountains constantly playing. A great many of these works still subsist. He paved the whole city, and erected several mosques.

After him reigned Mahomet Almundar, Abdallah, and Abdoulrahman the Third, who surpassed all his predecessors in splendour,

dour, riches, and expence. His subjects vied with each other in profusion and magnificence. I cannot give you a greater proof of the prodigious opulence and grandeur of the Arabians in the tenth century, than by enumerating the presents made to this prince by Aboumelik, named in 938 to the post of grand vizir. He caused to be brought before the throne, and laid at the feet of his master,

Four hundred pounds of virgin gold.

Lingots of silver to the value of 420,000
zequins.

Four hundred pounds of lignum aloes,
one piece weighing one hundred and
forty pounds.

Five hundred ounces of ambergrease.

Three hundred ounces of camphire.

Thirty pieces of gold tissue, so rich that
none but the Caliph could wear it.

Ten suits of Khorassan sables.

One

One hundred suits of fur of a less valuable
fort.

Forty-eight sets of gold and silk long
trappings for horses.

Four thousand pounds of silk.

Thirty Persian carpets.

Eight hundred iron coats of mail for war
horses.

One thousand shields.

One hundred thousand arrows.

Fifteen led horses of Arabia, as richly caparisoned as those the Caliph was wont to ride.

One hundred horses of an inferior price.

Twenty mules with all their accoutrements.

Forty young men, and twenty girls of exquisite beauty, and most sumptuously decked out.

This display of riches was accompanied with a most flattering poem, composed by the minister in praise of his sovereign, who,

in return for this homage, assigned him a pension of an hundred thousand pieces of gold.

Abdoulrahman built a new town * three miles from Cordova, called Zehra or Arizapha, from the name of his favourite mistress. The palace was erected upon the plans of the most celebrated architect of Constantinople, at that time the best school and nursery of artists in the world. In this edifice, were one thousand one hundred and fourteen columns of African and Spanish marble, nineteen of Italian, and one hundred and fourteen of most exquisite workmanship, a present of the Greek emperor. The richness of the state-room exceeded the bounds of credibility. The walls were incrustated with marble, inlaid with golden foliages:

* Supposed to have been at a place called Cordova la Vieja. There is nothing but a few ruins to support the conjecture.

in the middle was a marble basin surrounded with various figures of animals spouting water; all these statues were gilt and enriched with precious stones: the basin was cut at Constantinople, and the figures were esteemed the master-pieces of the most expert sculptors of that city. Above the fountain, hung a famous pearl which the emperor Leo had sent to Abdoulrahman. The other apartments of the palace fell little short of this hall in magnificence. The most retired part was allotted to his wives, concubines, slaves, and black eunuchs, in all six thousand. Over the principal entrance, in open defiance of the express mandate of the prophet, stood the statue of the fair Sultana who gave her name to this new city, now become the constant residence of the court. Here the emperor was wont to take the diversion of hunting, attended by twelve thousand horsemen, accoutred with belts and

scimitars, imbossed with gold. At his return from the chace, he usually retired to rest himself in a splendid pavilion erected in the middle of the gardens, overlooking all the adjacent country. This banquetting house was supported by columns of the whitest marble; the gilding and painting of the ceiling vied with the precious stones scattered over it; and in the center was a vase, in which quicksilver supplied the place of water; it shook with every motion of the room, and reflected the rays of the sun, which were admitted through some holes contrived in the roof.

You will no doubt be backward in crediting these relations; and the inconceivable expence this prince must have been at in these undertakings, will be apt to stagger your belief. The town of Zehra, with the palace and gardens, cost him, for twenty-five years, the annual sum of three hundred thousand

thousand dinars* ; add to this, the vast sums requisite for the maintenance of a seraglio of six thousand persons, a most numerous household, a guard of twelve thousand lancemen, and an incredible number of horses, and it can scarce be conceived where he could find revenues sufficient to answer such prodigious demands. All his life he kept on foot, and frequently sent into the field, very powerful armies. The salaries of the governors of provinces, towns, and forts ; of the administrators of justice ; the repairs of the fortified places, and the current outgoings of a formidable regular marine establishment, are objects of such expence, that it is easier to wonder than to believe, how they could be satisfied. But upon taking a review of the opulence of

* Reckoning the dinar at 9s. 2d. the annual expence amounts to £. 137,500 and in twenty-five years this makes the sum of £. 3,437,500 sterling.

Spain at that epocha, of its trade, population, tributes, and taxes ; that astonishment which we must be seized with, on the hearing of these accounts, will in a great measure subside.

The Moors were then masters of all the richest provinces of Spain, populous to an excess. In Cordova alone, they reckoned two hundred thousand houses, six hundred mosques, and nine hundred public baths. *

The Arabian historian, † from whom the present detail is taken, informs us, that

* In all probability, most of these houses were very inconsiderable huts of one room, as the Moors never dwelt more than one family under the same roof,

† Most of these particulars are extracts from l'Histoire d'Afrique, par M. Cardonne, who translated them out of the Arabic,

in

in his time there were in Spain * eighty large cities, three hundred of the second order, and that the number of villages and hamlets was not to be counted; upon the banks of the Guadalquivir, were no less than twelve thousand villages; a traveller, in the course of a day's journey, met with three or four considerable towns, and could not travel an hour without coming to a hamlet.

The revenues of the Ommiad caliphs in the time of Abdoulrahman the Third, amounted annually to twelve million nine hundred and forty-five thousand dinars, or about five millions five hundred and twenty thousand six hundred twenty-five pounds sterling. Besides this income in specie, a great number of imposts were paid in kind,

* It does not appear from his account, whether he means the whole peninsula, or only the portion of it subject to the Saracens.

which it is not possible to ascertain or fix any average value upon; but it is certain they must have been in proportion to the produce of the land, and consequently very great in a country inhabited by a numerous and indefatigable nation, devoted to agriculture, which they had carried to a pitch of perfection unknown to the rest of Europe. *

The mines of gold, silver, and other metals, which Spain abounds with, were another inexhaustible fund of wealth to the Arabs, who kept a great number of miners constantly employed. The discovery of America, and of its treasures, which seem to have brought contempt upon the riches

* This calculation of the Arabian historian favours much of exaggeration; as the sums mentioned far exceed all ideas we have of the quantity of gold and silver coin in circulation at the era: but I have given it in his words, without any farther comment.

of

of the old world, has deterred the kings of Spain from continuing to work the mines they have at home.

The extensive commerce carried on by the Moors with other nations, brought an incredible flow of wealth into their country. I shall not speak of their inland traffic, as I find nothing in their authors that can throw light upon it, or enable us to form any precise judgment of its extent and importance. I intend to confine myself to the operations of their foreign commerce, which was distributed into various channels, many of them rendering an excessive profit. It consisted either of the natural unwrought productions of Spain, or part of the same productions manufactured at home, and exported to foreign markets.

Gold, silver, copper, raw-silk, oil, sugar, false cochineal, quicksilver, pig and cast iron, and above all, their silk and woollen manufactures,

factures, were the most lucrative articles of exportation.

Ambergrease, yellow amber, loadstone, antimony, salt, talc, marcaffites, rock chryftal, tuttie, sulphur, saffron, ginger, myrrh, and various other drugs, formed other objects of trade, which, though inferior in value and quantity, produced nevertheless great and clear returns.

Much coral was fished on the coast of Andalusia, and that of Catalonia had a pearl-fishery.

Spain contained many mines of rubies and other precious stones; those of rubies near Malaga and Bejar, and that of amethysts near Carthagen, were in the highest repute.

These different commodities were conveyed to Barbary, Egypt, and all the East.

The temper of the Spanish arms was held in the greatest repute by all the Africans; Spain was in a manner their arsenal
from

from which they drew their cuirasses, bucklers, casques, scimitars, and daggers.

The demand for raw-silk, and for the silk and woollen stuffs of various colours made at Granada and Baça, and for the woollen cloths manufactured at Murcia, was very great throughout Africa: there can be no doubt, but their trade with Egypt must have been upon a more extensive plan than that with Barbary; the Spanish Arabs carried thither the goods of their country to barter against those productions of Egypt, which Spain stood in need of. The immensity of their traffic with the East, is not to be conceived; for reasons of state, the Ommiads constantly endeavoured to keep upon the best footing possible with the court of Constantinople, which they hoped would prove a check upon the enterprizes of the Caliphs of Damascus, who never ceased repining at the dismembering of their empire by the first Abdoulrahman.

All

All the ports of the Grecian dominions were open to the Spanish traders, who imported rich cargoes of merchandize adapted to the calls of that refined luxury, by which Constantinople was then distinguished; the profits upon such operations of commerce may easily be supposed to have been prodigious.

Alkahem the Second succeeded his father. The Arabian writer relates the following singular proof of courage given by a cadi, in reproofing this prince for a piece of injustice committed against one of his subjects.

A poor woman at Zehra possessed a small spot of ground contiguous to the royal palace. The caliph being desirous of extending his gardens that way, made proposals to the old woman to dispose of her land for a sum of money; but she continuing deaf to every argument employed to induce her to part with the inheritance
of

of her forefathers, the head gardener took by force what she refused to yield to entreaty. The woman, in an agony of despair, flew to Cordova, to implore the succour of Ibn Bechir, the chief *cadi* of the city. This magistrate immediately mounted his *ass*, taking with him a sack of extraordinary size, and presented himself before Alkahem, who was then sitting in a magnificent pavilion on the very ground in question. The arrival of the *cadi*, and the appearance of the wallet, surprized the sultan. Bechir having prostrated himself, entreated the prince to allow him to fill his sack with some of the earth they were then upon. This request granted, and the bag full, the *cadi* desired him to help him to lift it on his *ass*. This strange demand was still more amazing than the rest : however, the caliph consented ; but upon putting his shoulder to it, could not help complaining of the excessive weight
of

of the load. "Sir," replied the cadí, "this
 " bag, which you find so heavy, contains
 " but a very small portion of the earth
 " which you have unjustly taken from a
 " poor woman ; how then do you expect
 " to be able at the day of judgment to
 " support the weight of the whole field
 " you have had so little scruple of usurp-
 " ing." Far from being incensed at this
 audacious rebuke, the caliph generously
 acknowledged his fault, and ordered the
 land to be restored to the proprietor with
 every thing he had caused to be erected
 upon it.

This monarch left a minor to succeed
 him, and the kingdom to be governed by
 the famous visier Mahomet Abenamir, sur-
 named *Almanzor*, or *the defender*, from his
 great victories and wise conduct. His
 descendants inherited from him the visier-
 ship, and a power as absolute as if they had
 been caliphs, until the weakness of the
 sovereigns

sovereigns encouraged, and the insolence of the ministers provoked the grandees to disturb the state with their jealousies and dissensions ; these broils occasioned such a series of civil wars and anarchy, as overthrew the throne of Cordova, and destroyed the whole race of Abdoulrahman. Thus the glorious edifice founded by the valour and prudence of that conqueror, and cemented by similar virtues in many of his successors, sunk into nothing, as soon as the sceptre devolved upon weak, enervated princes, whose indolence and incapacity transferred the management of every thing to a visier. Many petty kingdoms sprang up out of the ruins of this mighty empire ; and the Christians soon found opportunities of destroying, by separate attacks, that tremendous power, which when united had proved an overmatch for their utmost force.

But it is high time I should put an end

to this long letter, which, I am afraid, you will look upon in no better a light, than that of an Arabian night's entertainment : The writers of the Moorish history, though often contemporaries of the princes whose lives they relate, may with good reason be suspected of exaggeration in their display of the wealth and achievements of their heroes ; but nevertheless, there must be some truth at the bottom, and their details cannot fail of being entertaining to every curious reader. My heart bleeds, while I tell you, that of all these glories, except the mosque, not even a ruin remains. Zehra, with all its delices, is erased from the face of the earth ; no one even knows where it stood, and its very existence may pass for a fable. The piety of the Christians in converting the mosque into a church, has preserved it from a similar fate.

That the wonders which have been the subject of this letter, may obtain some degree

gree of probability in your eyes, I shall hasten to sketch out an exact description of that ancient place of worship.

L E T T E R XXXV.

Cordova, April 16, 1776.

I Did not intend sending you another letter from this city, as our plan was to have left it this morning by day-break ; but there is no depending on the things of this transitory world, much less on the skill of a Spanish wheelwright. After waiting with impatience till he had completed the repairs of our shattered chaise, which had been overturned the day we came from Eccija, we at last received from him our travelling orders, and set off in great spirits ; when, behold ! directly opposite to the *Potro*, a place well known to Don Quixote's

first landlord, one of our wheels flew into fifty pieces, and brought us to the ground in the middle of the kennel: upon this, we had no choice left but of returning to our inn to pass this day and to-morrow in the best manner we can. I shall employ it in writing to you what I intended should serve to make a letter, to fill up part of my tedious hours in some venta between Cordova and Madrid.

The *Potro*, our *ne plus ultra*, is nothing more than a large fountain with a paltry stone statue of a *colt* on the top; when Cervantes wrote his Romance, Seville was the mart of Europe, and all the neighbouring places under the benign influence of commerce, were much more frequented and better known than at present; we walked on the *playa* of San Lucar, without seeing a single idle fellow, and the *compras* of Seville are now as empty as the square before the *Potro* of Cordova.

The mosque, in Spanish called La Mesquita,

*On the
of the
or Sanclum*



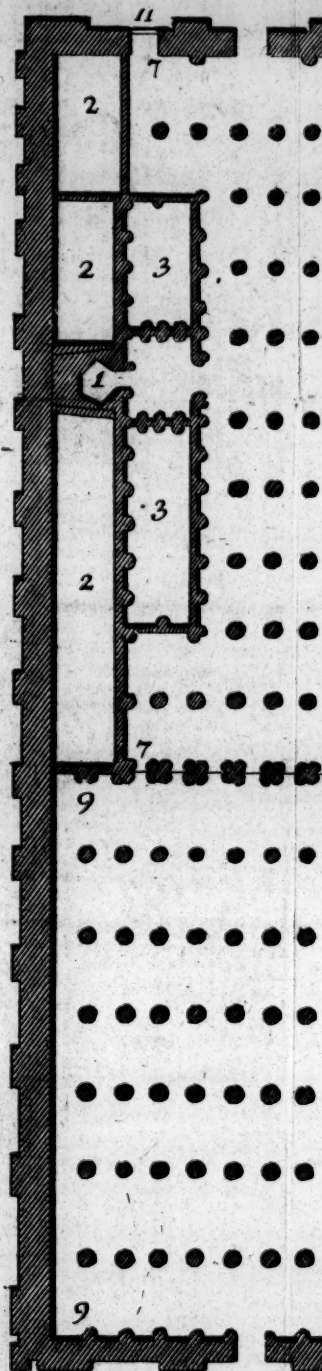
*Wall
Zancarron
Sanctorum*

Section of the great Ile



5 10 20 30 40 50
Spanish feet

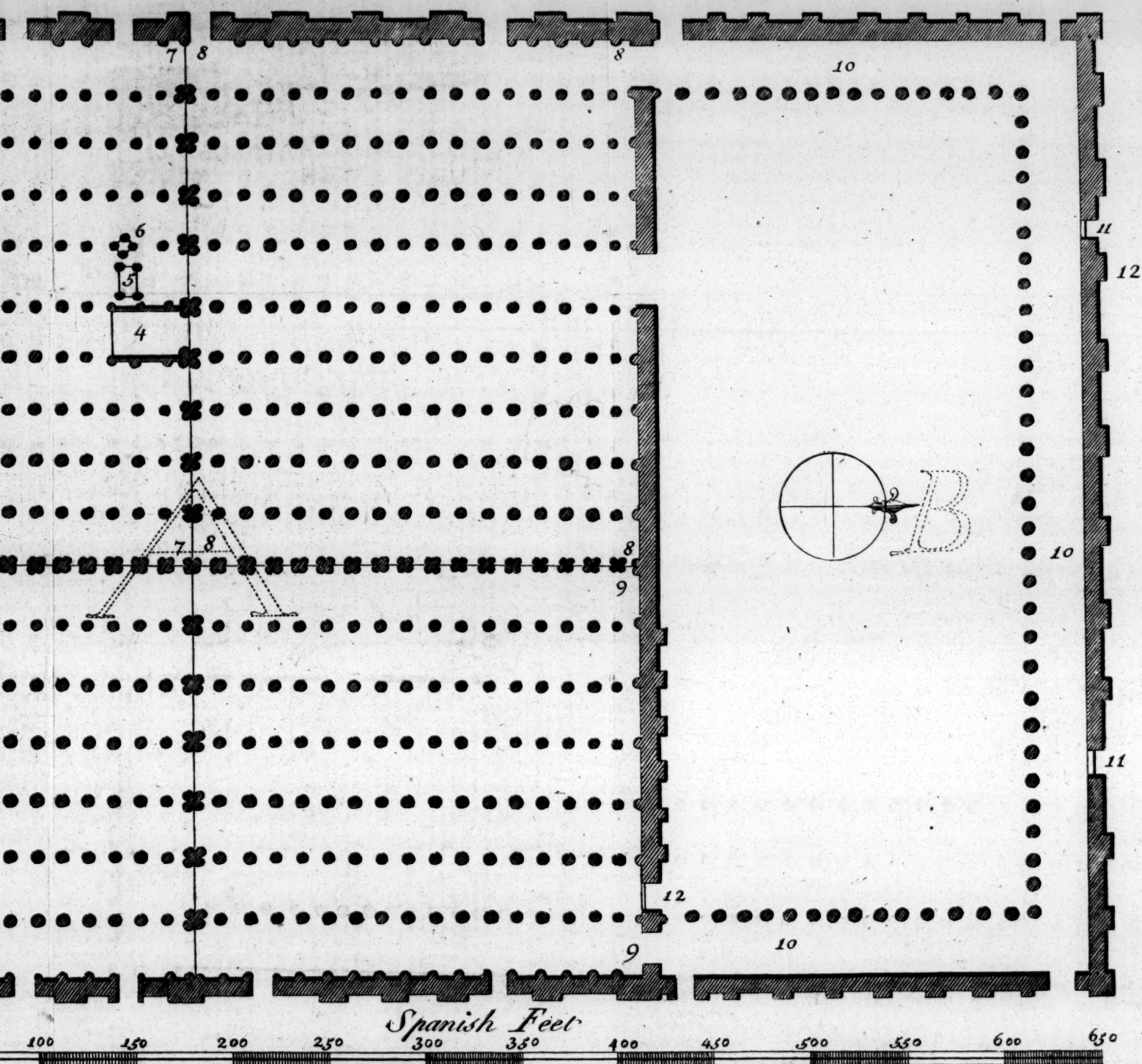
Plan of



50 100

- A The Mosque
- 1 Zancarron
- 2 Priest's Room
- 3 Part where
- 4 Seat of the
- 5 Throne of
- 6 Seat of the

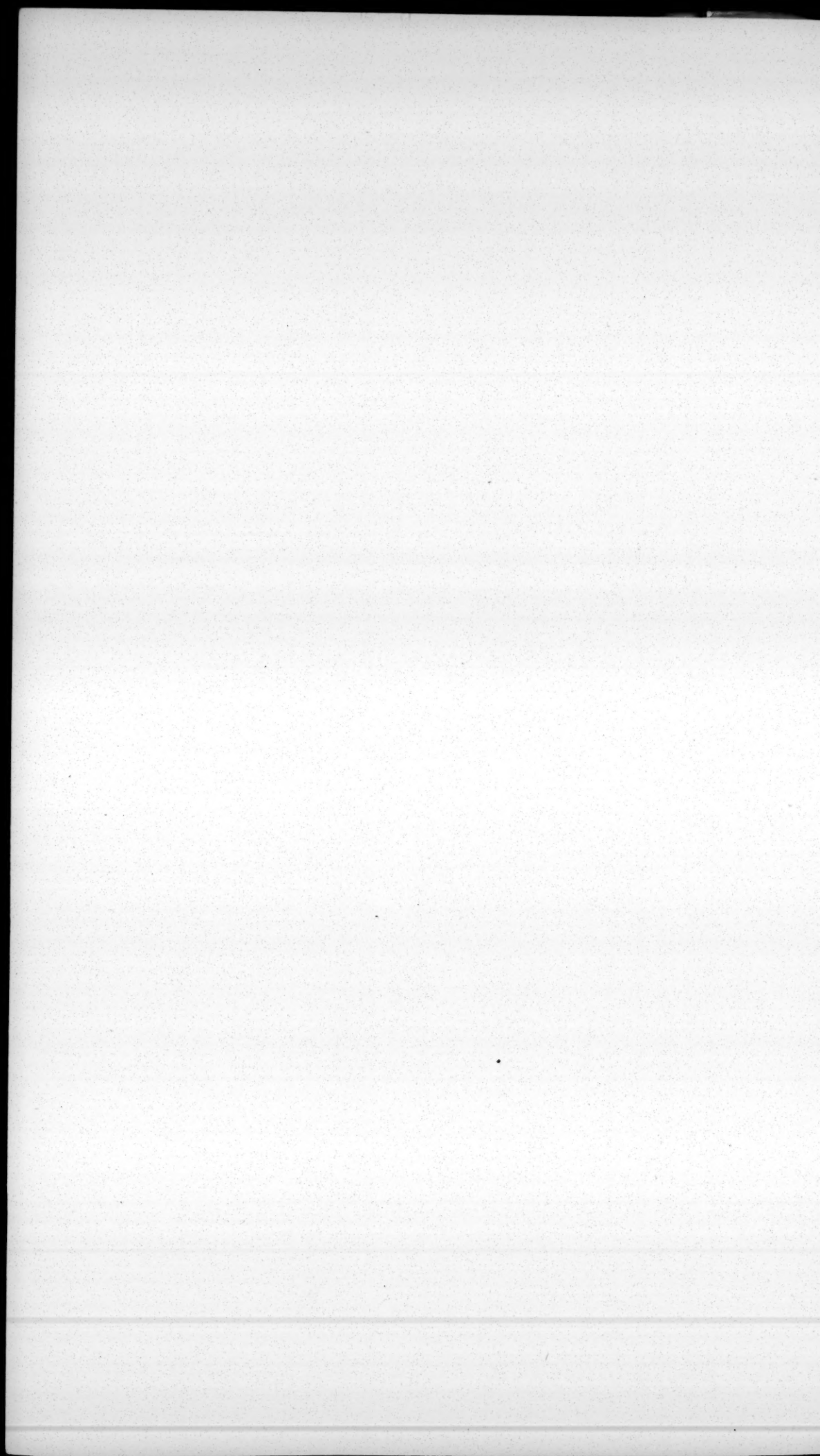
n of the MOSQUE of CORDOVA in Moorish Times



References

Mosque
carron
t's Rooms
t where none but Priests entered
t of the Moufti
ne of the Caliph
of the Cadi

- B *The Court of Ablutions*
- 7 *Part where the Nobles State*
- 8 *Part for the People*
- 9 *Addition to the first Mosque*
- 10 *Porch where they left their Shoes*
- 11 *Doors now walled up*
- 12 *New Doors opened by the Christians*



quita, from the Arabic word *masgiad*, a place of worship, was begun by Abdoulrahman the First, and destined by him to remain to after-ages as a monument of his power and riches, and a principal sanctuary of his religion. His ideas were sublime, and he was fortunate enough to find an architect whose genius was equal to the task of putting them in execution. He laid the foundation of the work two years before he died: his son Hisslem or Iscan finished the whole mosque about the year 800. It was more than once altered and enlarged by the Mahometans themselves, and has since undergone several changes since it became a Christian church. The greatest alteration was made in the fifteenth century, by building a cupola in the center upon Gothic arches, and scooping away part of the ancient edifice to form a large choir.

In the days of the Mussulmen, the mosque was a square building, with a flat

roof upon arches, which did not rise more than thirty-five feet above the pavement. It was four hundred and twenty in breadth, and five hundred and ten in length, including the thickness of the walls. The roof was borne up by near a thousand columns according to some accounts, and by seven hundred and seventy-eight according to others, which formed nineteen iles from east to west, and twenty-nine from north to south, if we may trust to the description given by Morales, and many other historians ; but I own I cannot see how there could ever have been more than seventeen, and the plans of the academy mark no more.* The columns were of the richest marbles ;

* From my own observations, and an examination of the plans taken by the academicians, sent by the king to measure and draw this and other ancient buildings in the south of Spain, I find the measurements given by most historians who describe the dimensions of this church,

marbles ; the twenty-four gates were plated with bronze, embossed in a most curious manner. The principal entrance had its folding doors covered with plates of gold. Upon the highest cupola were three golden balls, bearing up a pomegranet and a flower de luce of the same precious metal. Four thousand seven hundred lamps burned in the mosque every night, and consumed in a year near twenty thousand pounds of oil ; it also required annually sixty pounds of wood of aloes, and sixty of ambergrease, for the perfumes.

Such is the description of this famous temple left us in the writings of the Arabian and old Spanish authors.

I now proceed to give you a minute ac-

church, to be extremely difficult to reconcile, and I believe erroneous, at least not much to be depended upon ; for which reason I have adhered to the plans above mentioned.

count of its present state, after the notes I took down upon the spot with the utmost attention.

The streets round the mosque are narrow, and ill calculated for affording a general view. But indeed there is nothing very showy on the outside. The walls are plain enough, and not very high : the roof is hid behind battlements cut into steps. On the east side, the whole length is divided by buttresses into thirteen divisions, and about the same number on each of the other three sides. The doors opened in many of these compartments are ornamented with stucco of different colours. On the north side is a lofty belfry, a modern building, that has made a total alteration in the appearance of that front. Seventeen gates admit you into the church and cloyster. The cloyster, or court which served the Mahometans for their ablutions, and as a place to leave their slippers in, before they entered

entered the holy house, is an oblong square of five hundred and ten feet (the length of the church), by two hundred and forty. A portico of sixty-two pillars environs it on three sides, about twenty-five feet wide. The middle is taken up with three handsome and copious fountains, groves of orange-trees, and some towering cypresses and palms, which form a most delightful retreat in the sultry hours. We have had occasion to experience the comforts of this shade at noon-day, when the natives being all retired to their *siesta*, we were left in full possession of this ancient fabric. Contrary to the custom of the rest of Spain, the doors are left open all day, and nobody finds fault with those that saunter about in the church out of idleness or curiosity.

Near the great gate, that leads from the cloyster into the mosque, are three pieces of columns, each with an inscription, which vary from each other only in the name or

88 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

the emperor, the rest of the words being alike in all three.

T.I. C.A.E.S.A.R. D.I.V.I. A.V.G.V.S.T.I. F.
D.I.V.I. I.V.L.I. N.E.P.O.S. A.V.G.V.S.T.V.S.
P.O.N.T.V.F.E.X. M.A.X. X.X.I. C.O.S.
V. I.M.P. T.R.I.B. P.O.T.E.S.T. X.X.X.V.I.I.
A.B. I.A.N.O. A.V.G.V.S.T.O. Q.V.I. E.S.T.
A.D. B.O.E.T.I.M. V.S.Q.V.E. A.D.

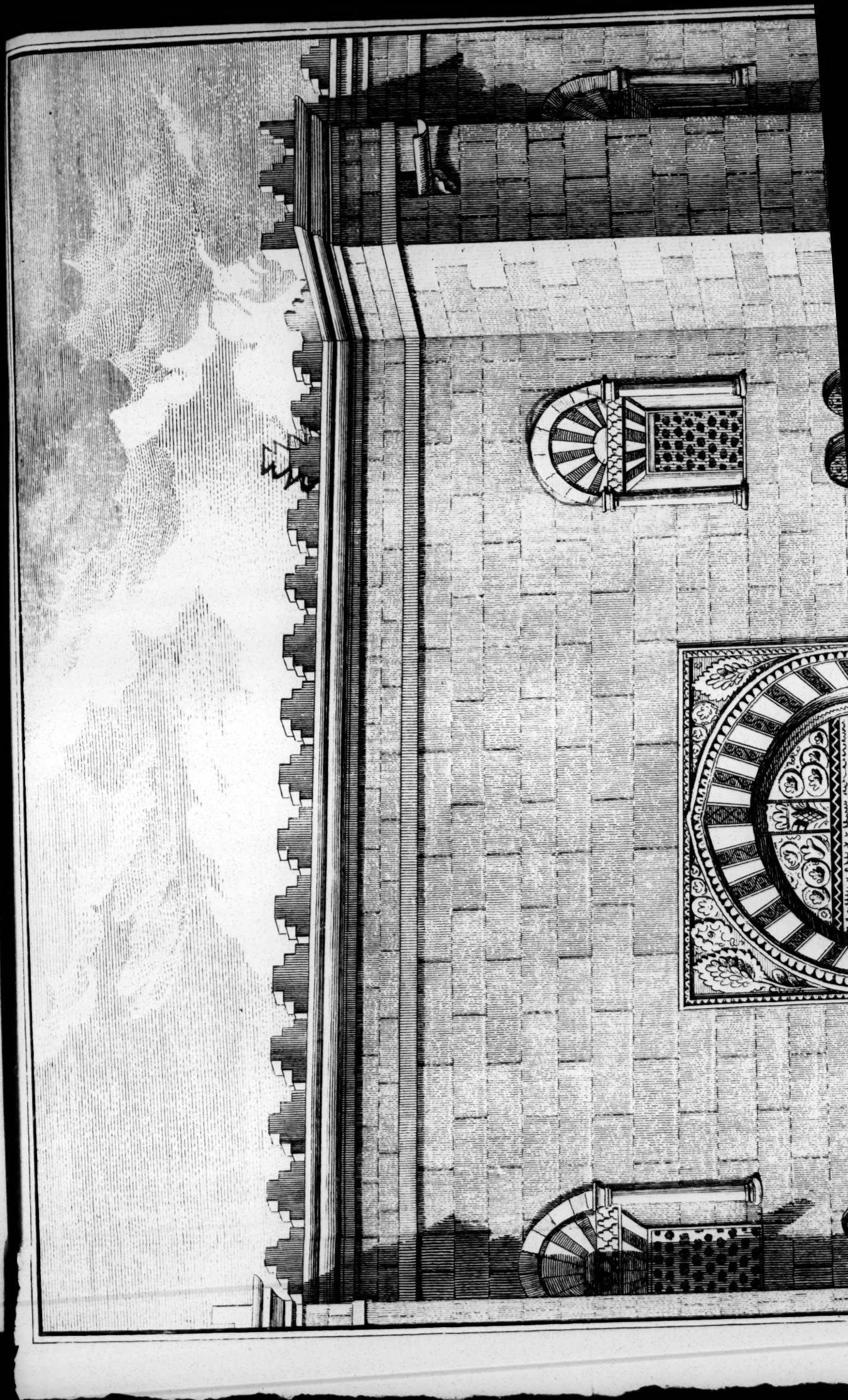
O.C.E.A.N.V.M.

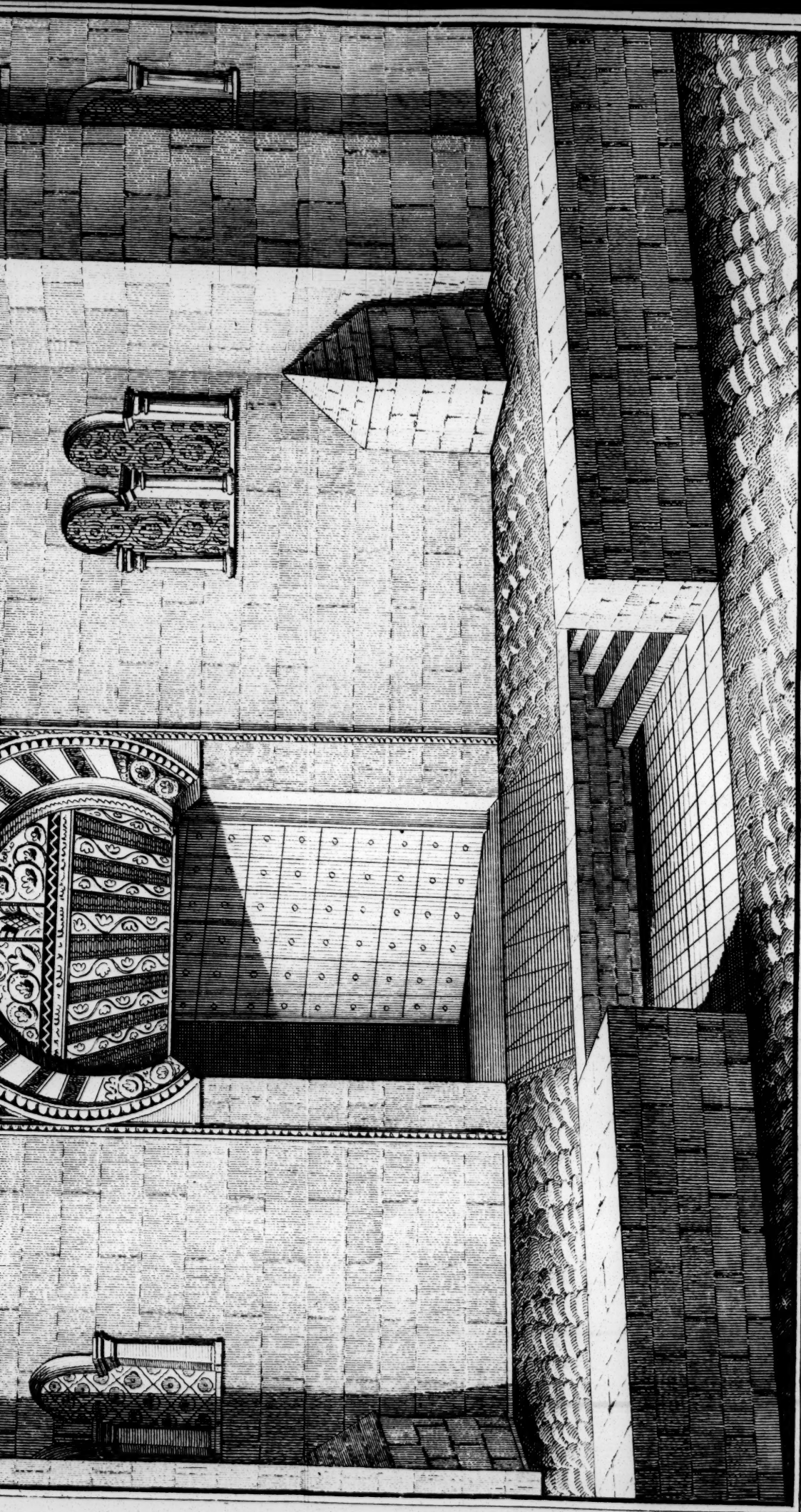
L.X.I.I.I.I.

The others bear the names of Augustus and Caius. What these kind of milestones, and the Janus Augustus were, I confess I am not able to inform you, nor can I procure any information from Maffei's collection of inscriptions, as, instead of explaining these lines, he doubts of there being any such existing.

The grand entrance of the church is at the thirteenth ile from the east wall, which

is

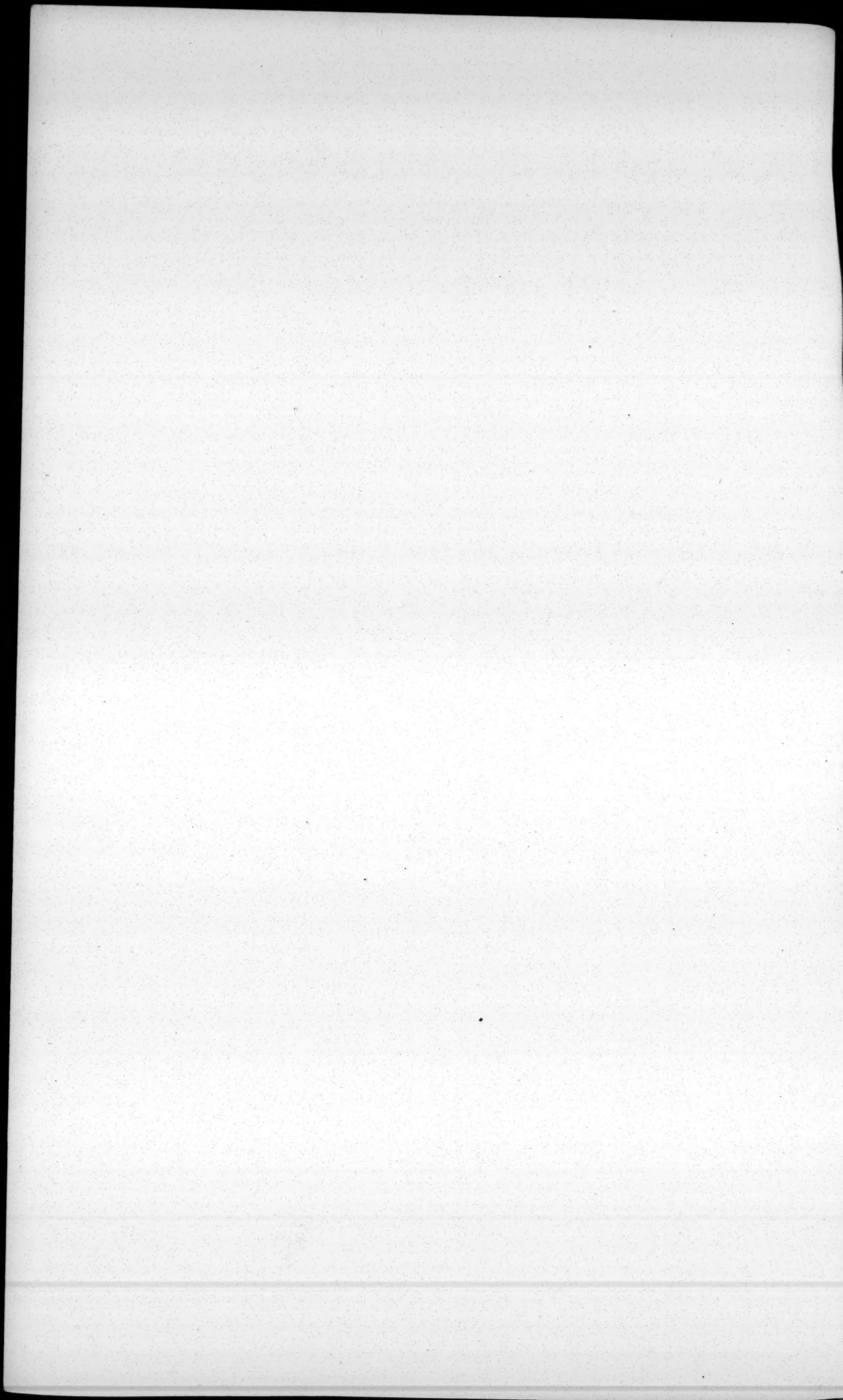




H. Swi. 1776

Part of the East Front

C. Nelli sc.



is rather wider and loftier than the rest, and the parts more decorated.

Nothing can be more striking than the first step into this singular rather than beautiful edifice. To acquire some idea of it, you must represent to yourself a vast gloomy labyrinth, like what the French are so fond of in their gardens, a fine *quincunx*. It is divided into seventeen iles, or *naves*, (each about twenty feet wide) by rows of columns of various marbles, viz. blue with white veins, yellow, red, red veined with white, gray, and Granadine and African green. These pillars are not all of the same height; for the Arabs, having taken them from Roman buildings, served them in the same manner as the tyrant Procrustes did his guests: to the short ones they clapped on monstrous capitals, and thick bases; those that were too long for their purpose had their base chopped off, and a diminutive shallow bonnet placed on their head. However, the thickness of the
shaft

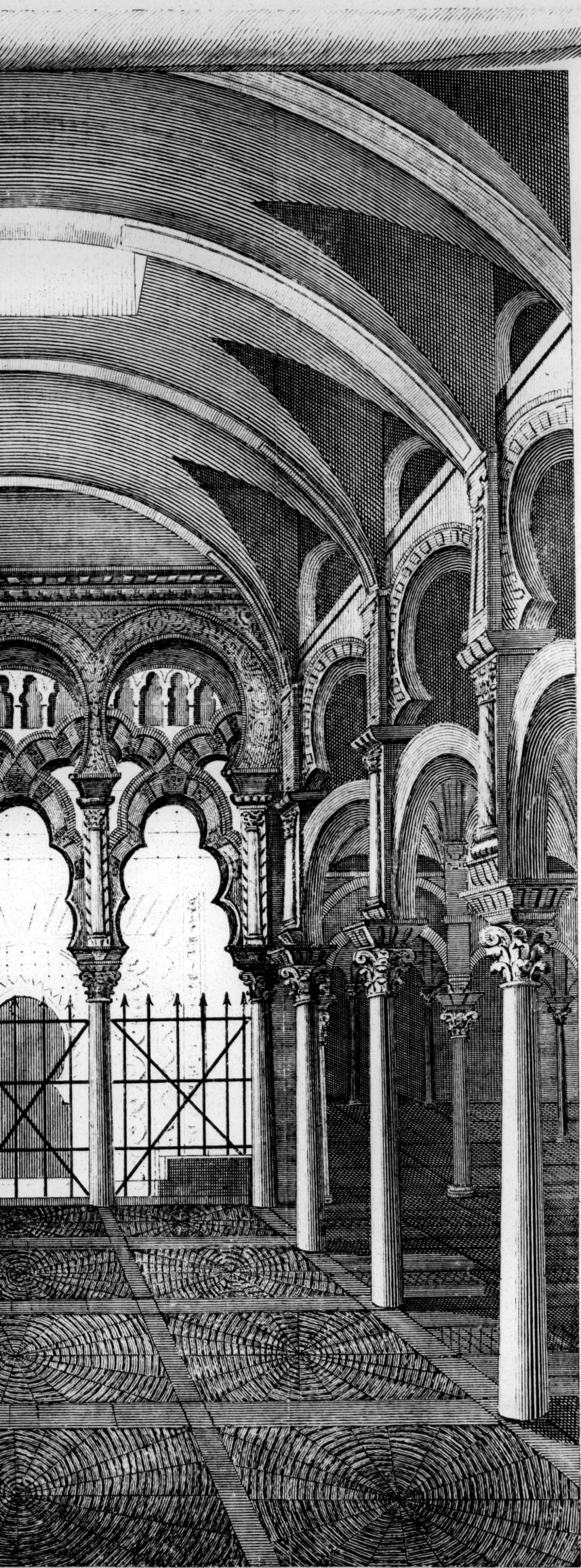
shaft is pretty equal throughout, about eighteen inches diameter, and the capitals are generally barbarous imitations of those of the Corinthian order. A couple of arches, one above the other, rising from the columns, run along the rows; and from the same basis springs an arch that forms the roof of each ile.

By several alterations and additions, the Moors had divided the whole mosque into four parts, marked out by two lines of clustered pillars, crossing each other at right angles: three of these portions were allotted to the populace and the women; the fourth, in the south-east angle, was reserved for the nobility and clergy. In this last quarter was the zancarron, or holy chapel, where they deposited the books of the law. The door of it faced the great gate, down the principal ile. The ornaments and architecture of this sanctuary, and of the throne of Almanzor, which is in front, at
the

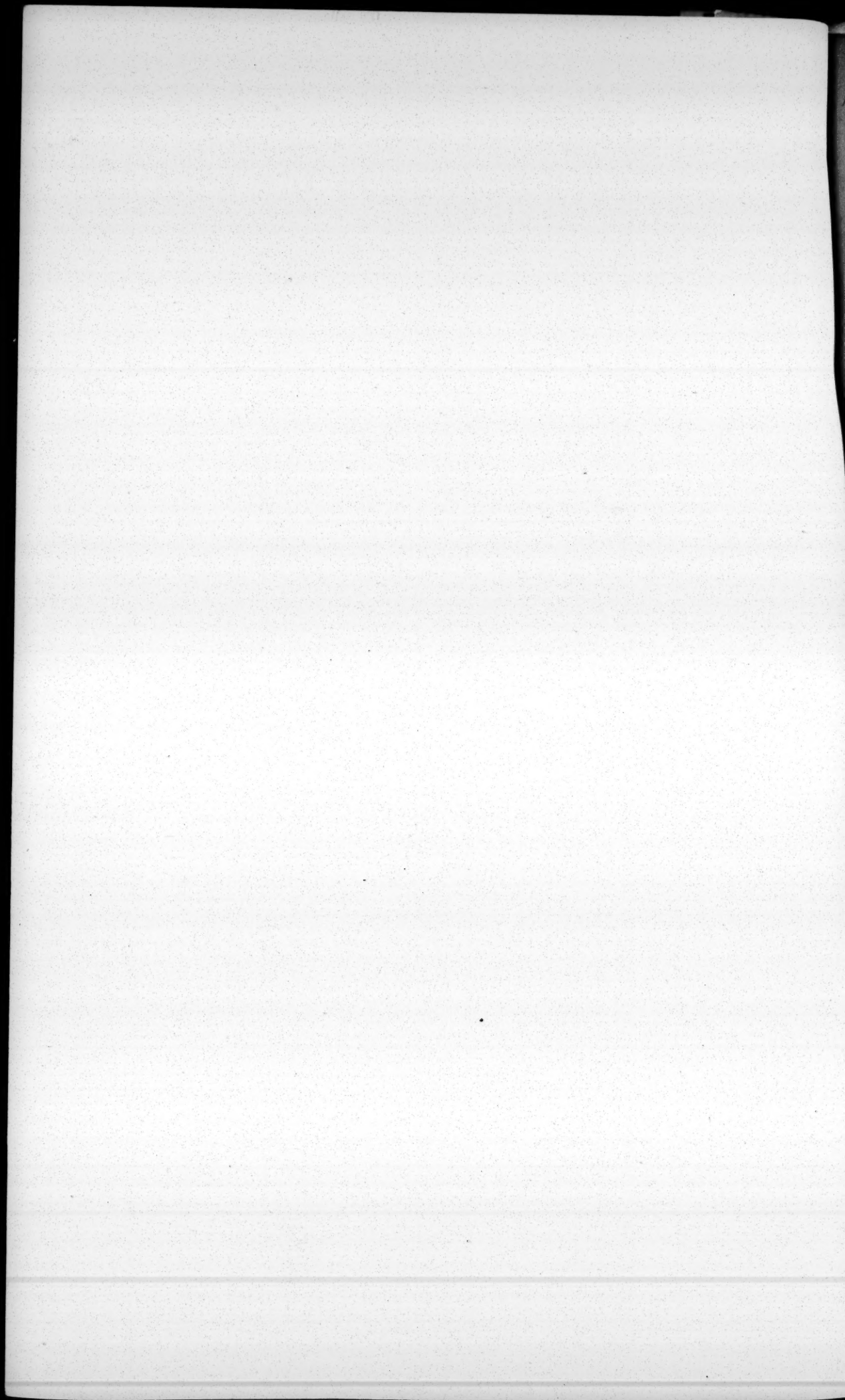


S. del. 1776.

CHAPEL OF THE ALKORAN IN



F. Giomignani sc.
IN THE MOSQUE OF CORDOVA.



the distance of six intercolumniations from it, are very different from those employed in the other parts. Two ranges of columns that support the screen before this *penetrable*, are about six feet high; the upper ones of red and white marble, the lower of green, with capitals most minutely carved and gilt. The roof of the dark inner sanctuary is said to be of one block of marble, eighteen feet wide: if so, it is not only curious for its size and quality, but also for the ingenuity of the architect, in placing it in so perfect an equilibrium, as to remain unshaken so many ages. The manner of casting the arches, grouping the columns, and designing the foliages of this screen and of the throne (which is an exact repetition of the screen), is very heavy, intricate, and barbarous, unlike all the Moorish architecture I saw at Granada. Indeed it is many centuries more ancient than any ornamental work at that place.

The zancarron is now the property of the

duke of Alba, who has his family vault under it.

Behind this chapel, and on each side of it, were the lodgings of the dervishes, which now serve for chapter-house, sacristy, and treasury. This church is extremely rich in plate, and has lately added to its store four ponderous silver candlesticks, very nicely wrought: they were made in Cordova, and cost about eight hundred and fifty pounds sterling apiece.

It is scarce possible to ascertain the exact number of columns in the mosque, as they originally stood, because great changes have been made, many taken away, displaced, or built up in the walls of chapels, and several added when the choir was erected in the center of the whole. Were this choir in any other church, it would deserve great praise, for the Gothic grandeur of the plan, the loftiness of the dome, the carving of the
stalls,

stalls, * and the elegance and high finishing of the arches and ornaments: but in the middle of the Moorish mosque, it destroys all unity of design, darkens the rest, and renders confused every idea of the original general effect of the building. Many chapels stuck up in various parts between the pillars, interrupt the enfilade, and block up the passage. The worst of all, is a large chapel of the Virgin, that closes the main ile exactly in the middle; and the throne of Almanzor is now occupied by a poor piece of legendary painting.

I can imagine no *coup d'œil* more extraordinary than that taken in by the eye, when placed in such spots of the church as afford a clear reach down the ile, at right angles, uninterrupted by chapels and modern erec-

* The stalls were carved after the designs of Cornejo of Seville. It took twelve years to finish the work, and one to put it up.

tions. Equally wonderful is the appearance, when you look from the points that give you all the rows of pillars and arches in an oblique line. It is a most puzzling scene of confusion.

Light is admitted by the doors, and several small cupolas; but nevertheless the church is dark and awful: people walking through this chaos of pillars seem to answer the romantic ideas of magic, enchanted knights, or discontented wandering spirits.

In one of the cupolas hangs the tooth of an elephant; which, our guide told us, had formerly belonged to one of those animals, that was particularly useful in carrying stones, and other materials for building the mosque.

A very extraordinary circumstance attending the church, which we have been thrice eye-witnesses of, is, that when the foundlings given out to parish-nurses die, they are brought into the cathedral, and
laid

laid upon a particular altar, that the chaplain may take them away to bury them. I went up to the first I saw, mistaking it for a votive waxen saint, prepared for some ceremony; nor was I undeceived till I touched the poor little creature. The second was laid down while we were there, and had all the symptoms of having been starved to death. There are not less than five hundred children lost to the population of Cordova every year in this manner, by neglect or ill treatment.

An officer took us out this afternoon to the bishop's country-house down the river. The late prelate was very fond of it, and had made it a pleasant, comfortable retreat; but since his death it is become very ruinous. The revenues of the see amount to three thousand five hundred pounds sterling a year. As the bishops cannot devise by will, all they die possessed of escheates to the king.

The fine earthen jars, called *buxaros*,
which

which are made in Andalusia, are remarkably convenient for water drinkers, as they are light, smooth, and handy: being not more than half baked, they are very porous, and the outside is kept moist by the water's filtering through: though placed in the sun, the water in the pots remains as cold as ice. The most disagreeable circumstance attending them is, that they emit a smell of earth refreshed by a sudden shower after a long drought.

I am just informed that our wheel will require another day to be refitted; which is a terrible piece of news indeed this rainy weather; for every day the roads will grow worse and worse, and we are not able to ride about to see the environs. Were there such a thing as a bookseller in this once learned city, I would buy Seneca, and try what consolation his philosophy affords in his native country.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXVI.

Santa Cruz, April 21, 1776.

I WRITE this from the Campo de Montiel, not very far from a *Lugar de cuyo nombre no quiero acordarme* :* Have passed over the Sierra Morena, and being now fairly entered into Don Quixote's own country, cannot resist the temptation of beginning a letter, let the end of it be written where it may so happen.

On the 18th we made our departure good from Cordova: but proceeded with fear and trembling, every moment peeping out to examine the state of our wheels, and, at each unmerciful jolt, biting our lips, and drawing up into our respective corners, to prepare for an overturn. Time gave us courage, and the anxiety passing off by degrees, we ventured to look out, and enjoy

* The first words in Don Quixote.

the fine vale of the Guadalquivir, which runs between two ridges of hills, covered with hanging woods and olive yards; several clear streams traverse the plain, and fall into the river. The ancient raised road, be it Roman or Moorish, was always most acceptable to us, whenever we got upon it: for it is a fine hard gravel above the level of dirt and water. Every brook had its bridge, but scarce one in twenty now remains.

At the bridge of Alcolea, where we passed to the south of the river, are kept the king's stallions. One or two of them are noble horses; but an Andalusian breeder values a horse for such points in his make, as would deter an English jockey from buying him. The former requires his horse to be forward and bulky in the shoulders, with his forelegs far back under his belly, and the tail set so low, as always to be squeezed close to his hams; he never suffers him to lie down, but keeps him constantly on a clean pavement

ment floping from the manger, with his forelegs close chained to the ground. You know Cordova has long been famous for its breed of horses, but it seems to be strangely fallen off; very few good looking ones are now to be met with. A gentleman of that city assured us, as indeed we had heard before, that the breed was much neglected, and little care taken to preserve it pure and genuine; the king having given the superintendence of his stud to a stranger, a foot officer, who perhaps never rode anything but an ass or a mule in his life. Before this change, the employment was always held by a Cordovese nobleman, who, as well as his friends, piqued himself upon breeding and exhibiting the choicest horses possible; but now in disgust, they have entirely laid aside all thought or taste for that pursuit, and seem quite indifferent about the animals they ride or drive.

For two days we travelled up the river.

The country it waters is very rich and beautiful; the plains extending far and near, charmingly streaked with rows of olive-trees; towns and castles near each other along the banks; the northern hills darkened with woods, and all the distant eminences to the south, green with corn: this luxuriance of vegetation and fatness of soil, rendered the roads abominably deep; our baggage was obliged to be carried upon mules half a day to ease the draught of the carriages. The cliffs along the river-side swarmed with flocks of a most elegant bird, called an *Abejaruxa* or Bee-eater: we shot several of them, and longed much to be able to preserve them in their feathers, or to have time and opportunity to paint them for your inspection, as I am certain the sight of them would give you great pleasure. They are about the size of a blackbird; their back is of a light brown colour, shaded with burnished gold, growing more deep
and

and ardent towards the head, ending in a pale yellow, mixed with a greenish blue about the beak, which is very long, black, sharp and straight; a black stroke runs from the beak round the eye, which is of a bright scarlet colour; the throat is yellow; the breast, down which runs a narrow black line, is of a fine blue, that becomes lighter along the belly; the upper part of the tail is azure, the under brown; the wings of a brownish yellow, furrounded with a blue stripe, tipped with black.

At Carpio is a Moorish mill or engine, with three huge wheels, which raises water to a great height, and conveys it to enrich a large tract of level. The landscape near it is remarkably pleasing.

At Anduxar, we took our leave of the Roman road, and of the river, which however we had now and then a distant peep of from the heights.

Yesterday we entered the Sierra Morena,

a chain of mountains that divides Castille from Andalusia ; rendered famous by the wars of the Christians and Mahometans, but perhaps better known by being the scene where the immortal Miguel de Cervantes has placed the most entertaining adventures of his hero. As we were near the eastern extremity, the land, though very high, and commanding a vast prospect to the south, did not in the least resemble a ridge of mountains, such as the Alps, the Pyreneans, or many others. It did not appear much more broken and elevated than many parts of England, which are well inhabited and cultivated.

The journey was very agreeable up the course of the Rio de las Piedras, a clear roaring torrent, tumbling over a bed of rocks, through glens of beautiful woods : the wastes are covered with a profuse variety of flowering shrubs ; particularly cistus of
many

many forts, among which the gum-cistus or rock-rose is the handsomest ; they gather manna from it in spring, by beating the bushes with small twigs, to which the viscous substance of the plant adheres. Sumach also grows in great abundance on these hills ; it is cut down in August, the leaves, flower, and stalk, are all pounded together, and used in lieu of oak-bark in dressing hides.

We now entered the new Colony of La Carolina, and its dependencies, planted eight years ago by the king, in a very extensive tract of woody mountainous country. The first settlers were Germans ; but from eating unwholesome herbs, and drinking too much wine and brandy, above half of them died, and now the inhabitants are the mixture of Germans, French, Savoyards, Catalonians, and other Spaniards. The reach of land in cultivation, and full of houses and villages, where there was nothing be-

G 4

fore

fore but forests, the retreats of banditti, extends at least three leagues in length, and, I believe, very little less in breadth. They talk of ten thousand families being already settled here ; but I do not see how it is possible there can be any thing like that number.

La Carolina, the capital of all the colonies, stands on a fine hill that towers over the whole settlement, and indeed over most part of the provinces of Granada and Cordova. For the sake of thus overlooking the rest of the plantations, they have placed it in a spot deficient in wood and water ; and reduced themselves to the necessity of digging an incredible number of wells for the purposes of drinking, and watering their gardens. The whole town is new from the foundations, for there was not a cottage there eight years ago ; the streets are wide, and drawn in strait lines, but the ground is not sufficiently levelled ; the houses are upon an uniform

form plan, without the least decoration : the church fronts the principal south road ; and a tower placed at each angle marks the extent of the town, which is to be an exact square : the market place and another square, are very spacious and shewy. All the flat on the crown of the hill before the town is laid out in kitchen gardens, and planted with avenues of elms, which are to serve hereafter for public walks.

I never saw a scene more pleasing to the eye, or more satisfactory to the mind of every person that feels himself interested in the welfare of his fellow creatures : his humanity must exult at the probability of their lot being so much ameliorated : for my part I enjoyed the most agreeable sensations at the sight of this absolute creation, this new world risen out of the very heart of desolation and solitude ; every thing seems so alive, so green, neat, and thriving ; in a word, so unlike the rest of this unactive kingdom.

kingdom. About a year ago, the department or district of the town of La Carolina, contained near eight thousand souls, but I was not able to obtain any exact information of the extent comprised under that denomination : three hundred Catalonian manufacturers came to settle here in the course of last year : cloth and other manufactures seem to go on briskly ; but I fear there is an inconstancy, a languor in the pursuit of projects, inherent in the very essence of the Spanish government, that will greatly retard the further progress of this colony ; in the beginning they spare neither pains nor expence to carry on a scheme, as may be seen here, where it is astonishing to behold how much has been done in a very short space of time. Our master muleteer, who had never been here since the Miquelets were sent to scour the country, and destroy the gang of robbers that harboured hereabouts, could scarce believe his eyes,

and

and did nothing but raise his hands to heaven and cross himself, as if he had got into a land of witches. It was no small enhancement of the merit of the place, to find an excellent inn and good dinner, and to regale ourselves upon excellent cow's milk and butter, to which we had been long strangers; for though they have cows in many parts of Spain, they seldom milk them, but keep them for breeding, and fattening in their old days for slaughter.

Now I have shewn you the fair side of La Carolina, I cannot, as a just and impartial correspondent, avoid informing you of the vices of its constitution, the defects in establishment and direction, with the reasons I have for suspecting it will fall off every year, till it dwindles away to a petty Spanish town, just kept alive by the monies spent at the inns by muleteers and passengers.

The foreigners complain, with what justice I know not, of not having been
treated

treated with the indulgence and tenderness an infant colony requires ; if any of them expressed discontent, or seemed desirous of returning to his native country, he was instantly secured, and chastised by a long and severe imprisonment. Many families were two or three years before their allotments were made out, during which time they were obliged to work gratis for the other settlers ; unmarried people were allowed no share of land, but employed as servants to the rest ; when the poor Alsacians or Savoyards had the good fortune to be placed upon a rich patch of soil, and had brought it into tolerable condition, they were frequently ousted by the governor, their habitation transferred to a Spanish family, and themselves sent to improve a more bleak and barren part of the hills. The king gives all new comers one year's seed corn, two cows, ten goats, some implements of husbandry, and some household stuff, which is generally infinitely worse than his
majesty

majesty intends it should be: he pays them a stipend for their maintenance for the first three years. Some few foreigners, having numerous families grown up, thrive and improve in their circumstances, but the rest will in all probability leave the country as soon as the time of their contract expires, provided they be allowed to remove. The Spaniards have gradually got possession of the best plantations, and the town of Carolina has scarce any other inhabitants. The worst of all is, that there seems to be no outlet from this settlement, in case their manufactures should arrive at any degree of perfection, for it is on every side extremely remote from the sea, and many days journey by land from the great cities of Spain, where the consumption of their commodities might be expected to turn to any considerable account.

A little north of Carolina, we passed through a new village called Las Navas de
 2 Tolosa,

Tolosa, from the old name of the defile in the neighbouring mountains where, in 1212, Alfonso the Ninth, king of Castille, Peter the Second, of Aragon, and Sancho the Seventh of Navarre, with their joint forces, attacked and cut to pieces the army of Mahomet, king of Morocco. Historians gravely tell us, that there fell no less than two hundred thousand Moors, more than half their army, with the loss of only twenty-five Christians. In a letter said to have been written by Alfonso to the Pope, this list of the slain is given. I always thought it a most extraordinary story, but now that I have seen the field of battle, I look upon it to be full as wonderful how three hundred and fifty thousand Moors, without reckoning the Spanish forces, could contrive to squeeze themselves into such a heap of mountains jumbled together, where you could not find

twenty

twenty yards of level ground for some miles round the spot. *

The evening was very fine, and the hills steep, which induced us to walk most part of the way. Having got a good distance before the carriages, among some woody dells, we began to be in great hopes and constant expectation of some *Cardenio* or *Dorothea* bolting out upon us. While we were amusing ourselves with such Quixotic reveries, the sound of a guitar suddenly struck our ears. At a turn of the road, close by the side of a sweet murmuring brook, we met with about a dozen well dressed men, and as many smart, handsome damsels, dancing upon a platform of large level stones. The females that were not busy dancing, were seated under fine hanging

* Many learned men, some of them Spaniards, doubt whether ever such a battle was fought on this spot. It is the ground-work on which the Voto de Sant Iago, and the frauds of Medina Conde are founded.

woods, on a natural amphitheatre of rocks. The principal men came very politely up to us, and invited us to partake of their sport, while a very pretty girl presented us with sweetmeats and sugar-plums. A jolly friar seemed to do the honours of this *fête champêtre*, and to have the privilege of throwing his handkerchief at which of the sultanas he pleased; for they all courted his smiles and caresses. We stayed some time with this merry crew, who danced several seguidillas, and sang several songs at our request. They pressed us much to go back up the hill, and pass the night with them at the house they belonged to, where they intended to be very frolicsome: but as it began to rain, we declined the kind offer, and parted with our new friends, whose music and jovial shouts we had the pleasure to hear re-echoed by the rocks, almost during our whole walk up to our inn at Miranda.

This morning the heaviest of our trunks
being

being put upon mules, to lighten the chaifes, we crossed the Sierra Morena, at the pass called *El Puerto del Rey*. The road is far from bad, though steep; but the mountain is as dreary and disagreeable as any thing can well be. The heavy rain did not render us more indulgent to its ill-favoured aspect. In Cervantes' days, there were perhaps noble woods to cover all this nakedness, as here and there some venerable pines and chestnut-trees remain sad monuments of ancient forests.

All the Mancha before us seems to be a bare corn-country, ugly and tedious beyond expression. For my part, unless it be to look out at a venta, or peep about for an adventure at the meeting of the cross-roads, I intend sleeping all the way to Madrid.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

Madrid, April 27, 1776.

WE perceived a very severe alteration in the climate as soon as we descended the Sierra Morena, and entered the Mancha: from the beginning of summer we were in a manner thrown back to the last months of winter. In Andalusia, the vines were all in leaf, and their fruit set; the flowers of the shrubs falling off to make way for the seed. On the northern side of the mountains scarce a fresh leaf was to be seen, or a bud in the vineyards; the poor starved bushes, with just a flower or two blown; the weather cold and raw; in a word, it is difficult to conceive so sudden and so thorough a change of seasons as that which we experienced in this journey.

The Mancha is an immense plain, intersected

fected by different ridges of low hills and rocks: not an inclosure of any kind, except mud-walls about the villages: and really I can almost say, there is not a tree to be seen from the Sierra Morena to Toledo, nor from the banks of the Tagus to Madrid: a few dwarfish evergreen oaks, huddled together in nooks of hills, and some stumpy olive plants, scarce deserve the name of trees. All this vast tract of open country is cultivated in corn or vines: there cannot be an uglier. The villages are large; few or no single houses; and not a *venta* that I could fix upon for the scene of any action in Don Quixote. We lay at Puertolapiche, a small village mentioned by Cervantes; but I think he omits telling us what adventure was achieved there. In short, with all the helps of imagination, and reading the book all the way, the country did not raise one agreeable idea, nor tempt me to take a single sketch of any part of it. The houses

are built with mud and gravel. The women cover their heads with coloured handkerchiefs, and their necks with laced palatines.

Val de Peñas produces a very pleasant red wine, the most drinkable, for common use, of any in Spain. The provision of wine for the king is kept in hogheads; the remainder of the vintage in skins. The best wine sells at the rate of twenty reals the arroba.

The badness of the weather hindered us from riding a few miles out of the road to visit *Los Ojos dela Guadiana*, where that river, after running eight leagues underground, rises up to day, and thence takes its course towards Estremadura. We passed over the subterraneous river at the Venta de Quesada, where the well in the yard communicates with it. Straw, or any kind of light stuff, dropped into the well, is hurried away with such rapidity by the stream, that
you

you will not bring up a single straw, though you let down the bucket almost instantaneously. The incurious Spaniards have made so few experiments upon this phenomenon, that we could procure no further intelligence on this head. The Manchegos have a pretty song about these eyes of the Guadiana, which, however, they declare to be much less wonderful than those of their mistresses. At Consuegra, a most beautiful gipsy girl, with the sweetest eyes in the world, sung it to us, and danced seguidillas to the tune with admirable agility and expression. She was quite *Preciosa the little gipsy*, with her soft voice and affected lisp. It is a pity her beauty was much impaired by her mode of dressing, which gave her a most prominent belly, a defect few Spanish women are free from, and a flat low breast, which they esteem a great perfection in a lady's shape.

Toledo is the strangest city you can imagine in point of situation ; something like Durham, or Richmond in Yorkshire, but not equal to either in beauty, as it is totally bare of wood.

The Tagus, after winding at large through a fine plain, which a little more wood would render very agreeable to the eye, comes at last to be wedged in between two ramparts of high steep rocks : the passage is very narrow, and before the river gets out again into a broad bed and open ground, it almost returns to the place where it entered the defile. On this rocky peninsula stands the city, exceedingly ill built, poor, and ugly. The streets are so steep, that no stranger in his sober senses would venture up or down them in a carriage.

The Alcazar, or ancient palace, which was burnt down by the allied army in the beginning of the century, is placed on the highest point of all. It is a noble extensive building,

building, and has just undergone a thorough repair, at the expence of the archbishop, who has fortunately taken a turn towards employing some portion of his great revenues in works of public utility, such as this palace, a new road to Aranjuez, and a street in the town.* It is supposed that the

* The see of Toledo is said to be worth four hundred thousand ducats a year; but there are large deductions to be made. Besides the proportion the infant Don Lewis receives, and pensions to different people, it pays annually fifteen thousand ducats to the monks of the Escorial, notwithstanding Philip the Second granted to them no less than thirty villages in their neighbourhood. The Spanish court finds many ways of lessening the revenues of the church, by pensions, donations to hospitals, charitable foundations, and premiums to the societies of agriculture. There is not a bishoprick in the kingdom but has somebody or other quartered upon it; and I believe the second-rate benefices are in the same predicament. Out of the rich canonries and prebends, are taken the pensions of the new order of knights of Carlos tercero.

Alcazar will be converted into an hospital or orphan-house. The architecture is chaste and unaffected; the inner court is very grand; its colonnade of granite columns, of the Corinthian order, makes a noble appearance; the chapel is lofty and narrow, which renders it convenient to attend divine service, as there is a balcony in each story of the house that leads into it. The stables are under the kitchens and offices, and are large enough to contain a very considerable number of horses. The garret story is one open gallery for playing in, above eighty yards in length. In the middle stories are several large halls, the most spacious of which measures about one hundred and sixty feet by thirty-six.

The cathedral has nothing particularly beautiful on the outside above the common run of Gothic churches; it is not to be compared with many we have in England. The steeple is in the ugly style of the Flemish

mish and German spires, a heap of blue turrets piled one upon another. The inside is well lighted and cheerful, neither heavy, nor confused with too many ornaments: the decorations added of late years are not in the best of tastes, but in richness of gilding without a competitor. The wealth of the archbishop and chapter displays itself in the profusion of gold lavished on the walls; they have gilded the iron rails, the Gothic arches, and even drawn lines of gold to mark the joints of the stones with which the pillars of the choir are built.

The group of angels, called *El transparente*, which is fixed behind the choir, and esteemed by the Toledans the glory of their church, is at best but a clumsy, ill-designed monument, remarkable for nothing but the fineness of the marble and other materials.

One

One of the greatest vexations a curious person experiences in travelling through Spain, is the scarcity, the non-existence of tolerable *Ciceroni*; those you meet with are generally cobblers, who throw a brown cloak over their ragged apparel, and conduct you to a church or two, where they cannot give you the least satisfactory information concerning its antiquities or curiosities. This is literally the case at Toledo: but to make amends, they lead you to a hole in a pillar, where the host was hidden all the time that the Saracens were in possession of the city, though the whole fabric has been built from the ground since the expulsion of the Moors; for Saint Ferdinand laid the first stone of the present church in 1226. They also shew you the stone on which the Virgin Mary stood, when she came to pay a visit to Saint Ildephonsus, and which is worn through by the fingers of the pilgrims. Ask them any thing about the Mosarabic chapel, and what
is

is done there, they will tell you, as they did us, that mass is said there in Greek. That you may not accuse me of being as barren of instruction as our conductors, I shall put together the chief points wherein the * Mosarabic rite differs from that of the Roman missal. The former liturgy was constantly used by the church of Spain, down to the pontificate of Gregory the Seventh, in the eleventh century: it had been confirmed by several Spanish councils, commented upon and illustrated by Saint Isidore of Seville: but the policy of the court of Rome, and its influence over the mind of Alphonfus the Sixth, who had lately conquered Toledo, overcame the obstinate attachment of the Spanish clergy. Notwithstanding the prowess of the Mosarabic

The Mosarabic rite is so called from its having been observed by the Christians that remained in the provinces conquered by the Arabians.

rabic

rabie champion, who came off victorious in the fight (for it was agreed to try the merits of the two liturgies by single combat) notwithstanding the flames were not more indulgent to the Roman than to the Gothic ritual, when, in hopes of a decisive miracle, the two books were thrown into the fire before the king, notwithstanding the clamours raised by the natives, the ancient rite was abrogated in the greater part of the kingdom. It subsisted in six parishes of Toledo as late as the fifteenth century, but is now restrained to the single chapel of Saint Eustatiá, in the cathedral, where Cardinal Ximenes, unwilling that his church should lose all remembrance of its ancient forms, made a foundation for thirteen priests and three clerks, who officiate every morning according to the Mosarabic manner.

In essentials this ritual agrees perfectly with Rome, but in many outward forms differs widely. I suspect it varied much
more

more in its original state ; for it is hardly credible the dispute could have been so obstinately maintained for such trifling deviations as what now subsist. But indeed that would not amount to an undeniable proof ; we know that the church has always looked upon the resistance to its authority to be of more consequence than the difference in outward ceremonies.

The prayers before mass are not the same ; nor always the same portions of scripture read on the same festivals. In the Roman missal are two lessons, one from the Old Testament or the Epistles, and one from the Gospels : the Mozarabic gives three, one from the Old Testament, another from the Epistles, and a third from the Gospels. The Romans say the creed before the offertory, the others after the consecration.

Toledo has lain in the route of most of those travellers that have written on Spain ; and in them you will find ample accounts of
every

every thing remarkable. As I hate repetitions, and would willingly avoid them whenever it is possible, give me leave to refer you to the works of those gentlemen. One circumstance only I cannot refuse myself the satisfaction of acquainting you with, though I make no doubt but it is an anecdote to be met with in twenty books of travels. In the convent of St. Francis, founded by Ferdinand and Isabella, the first novice received was Ximenes, who, in the course of the same reign, rose to be cardinal, archbishop of Toledo, and prime minister of Spain. His history, as well as that of Don Juan de Padilla, have lately acquired redoubled lustre from the pen of Dr. Robertson; in whose admirable life of Charles the Fifth is to be found every necessary information relative to the revolt of Toledo.

From the ancient capital of New Castille to within half a league of Madrid, the present seat of government, the roads are

as bad as in any part of the kingdom, and the country extremely ugly. I do not imagine the most pitiful city in the peninsula can make a more despicable figure than this metropolis of all the Spains does from the opposite hills, as you approach it on the south side; neither tree, villa, nor garden, until you arrive at the avenues of the town; the corn-fields run up close to the houses; in short, the whole landscape round you is the barest and most melancholy I ever beheld: but as soon as the trees of the walks shut out the prospect of the neighbouring country, the appearance of Madrid is grand and lively; noble streets, good houses, and excellent pavement, as clean as it once was dirty.

The court is absent from Madrid, so that our stay here will be no longer than will be sufficient to rest ourselves, and get our things put in order for our appearance at Aranjuez.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

Aranjuez, May 3d, 1776.

THIS place is twenty-seven miles from Madrid; the road to it extremely fine; but the trees planted on each side are as yet too young to shut out the abominable country it passes through. The present king made it at the vast expence of one hundred and thirty thousand pounds sterling. The new bridge over the Xarama, at the descent into the plain, is very long and grand.

Aranjuez has great beauties, and would please you much; for here are numberless avenues of aged elms on a perfect level; green banks to rest upon, near a fine meandering river; fountains and shady groves; plenty of milk and butter, and vegetables in great perfection.

The

The situation of this place renders it one of the most agreeable residences I know belonging to a sovereign prince. It stands in a very large plain, surrounded with bare hills, which, to be sure, are excessively ugly; but they seldom appear, being very well hidden by the noble rows of trees that extend across the flat in every direction. The compartments between the avenues are railed off, and laid down in pasture and meadow, for the supply of the large dairy of cows established here by the present king.* That part of the vale which stretches out towards the east is left in a ruder state, and, except some few fields of corn, is mostly forest-land, through which the Tagus winds in a deep shady bed. The walks and rides along the banks, through the venerable groves, and under the majestic elms that overhang the roads, are luxuries unknown to

* These cows were brought in carts from Holland.

the rest of Spain. The beauties of the scenery are enhanced by the flocks of many-coloured birds that flutter and sing on the boughs, by the herds of deer, which amount to no less than seven thousand head, and by the droves of buffaloes, sheep, cows, and brood mares, that wander uncontroled through all these woods. The wild boars are frequently seen in the evenings in the streets of the town.

The finest avenue, called the *Calle dela Reyna*, is three miles long; quite straight from the palace gate, crossing the Tagus twice before it loses itself in the thickets, where some noble spreading elms and weeping poplars hang beautifully over the deep still pool. Near this road is a flower garden for spring, laid out with great taste by Mr. Wall during his ministry. The gay variety of flowers at this time of year is particularly pleasing to the eye; but its beauty soon fades on the approach of summer.

mer. As the weather grows hot, the company that chooses to walk retires to a garden in an island of the Tagus, on the north side of the palace. This is an heavenly place, cut into various walks and circular lawns, which in their primitive state may have been very stiff and formal; but in the course of a century, Nature has obliterated the regular forms of art; the trees have swelled out beyond the line traced for them, and destroyed the enfilade, by advancing into the walks, or retiring from them. The sweet flowering shrubs, instead of being clipped and kept down, have been allowed to shoot up into trees, and hang over the statues and fountains they were originally meant to serve as humble fences to. The jet-d'eaux dash up among the trees, and add fresh verdure to the leaves. The terraces and balustrades built along the river, are now overgrown with roses, and other luxuriant bushes, hanging down into the stream,

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stream, which is darkened by the large trees growing on the opposite banks. Many of the statues, groupes, and fountains, are handsome, some masterly, the works of Algardi: all are placed in charming points of view, either in open circular spots, at a distance from the trees, or else in gloomy arbours, and retired angles of the wood.

The west front of the palace is handsome: two new wings, which are to be brought out from the main body, will increase its bulk, but, I am afraid, will not add much to its beauty. The first part of the building was erected by Philip the Second, who purchased the estate, planted many of the avenues, and, in order to extend his chace, or to indulge his splenetic disposition, had all the vines that grew on the hills rooted up. By that means he drove away the inhabitants, and rendered the environs of his villa a perfect desert. These hills are
full

full of springs, that throw up large quantities of a strong purgative salt.

The apartments are good, but contain no great number of paintings or statues. There is an Annunciation in the chapel, by Titian, and Mengs has painted some holy subjects in the bed-chambers, and an allegorical piece of Time and Pleasure, in the ceiling of the theatre. In a Franciscan church lately finished, the picture of San Pasqual, by the same hand, is much admired.

The town or village formerly consisted of the palace, its offices, and a few miserable huts, where the ambassadors, and the attendants of the court, endeavoured to lodge themselves, as well as they could, but always very uncomfortably; many of the habitations were vaults half under ground. What determined the king to build a new town, and to embellish the environs, was an accident that happened at the nuncio's; a coach

broke through the ceiling of his dining-room, and fell in upon the table. The court then began to apply very considerable sums to the purpose of erecting proper dwellings, for the great number of persons that flock to the place where the sovereign resides; near ten thousand are supposed to live here two or three months in spring; the king keeps one hundred and fifteen sets of mules, which require a legion of men to take care of them. Half a million sterling has been laid out at Aranjuez, since the year 1763; and it must be acknowledged, that wonders have been performed; several fine streets drawn in straight lines with broad pavements, a double row of trees before the houses, and a very noble road in the middle; commodious hotels for the ministers and ambassadors; great squares, markets, churches, a theatre, and an amphitheatre for bull feasts, have been raised from the ground. Neatness and convenience have been more studied and fought

sought for than shew in the architecture, but altogether the place has something truly magnificent in the coup-d'œil.

This afternoon we had a very pretty entertainment on the river. The prince of Asturias, and his attendants, embarked in a galley richly decorated, preceded and followed by other smaller barges, adorned in a less splendid, though still a very gay manner. They rowed from his banquetting-house up into the woods, where the meandrings of the river are exceedingly beautiful, forming fine sweeps and reaches with green banks, shaded by aged trees that hang in various clumps over the stream. Crowds of holiday-folks, in their best apparel, lined both sides of the Tagus, and were no small addition to the rural shew.

The pleasures of Aranjuez are walking or riding in the morning, going to court, dining at some of the open tables kept by the great officers of state, a game at cards,

a drive along the avenue, and the Italian opera. The ministers are quite easy in their behaviour, and their houses free from ceremony and restraint; that of the prime minister, the Marquis Grimaldi, is superlatively so: he keeps an open house, where we are always sure of meeting with a numerous company, cards, and conversation; the master of it is always glad to see us, and shew us every civility the place admits of: I am afraid we do not attend as much perhaps as we are in gratitude bound; for there are so many temptations at our own ambassador's, that it is with difficulty we can bring ourselves to sacrifice the pleasures we find at his house to the duties imposed upon us by society. The easy frankness, affability, and friendship, with which Lord Grantham treats us, make us loath to waste elsewhere the hours we can pass so agreeably under his roof.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

Aranjuez, May 6, 1776.

WE have just finished our round of presentations, which, in so numerous a royal family, is a work of more days than one; as I know you expect a minute account of each of those that compose it, I am sorry I am incapable of satisfying your curiosity, in as ample a manner as I could wish; you shall have a description of their persons, and as much of their characters, as I have learned from well-informed people, in whose judgment I can confide. I beg you will consider how hard it is to discern the true character of the great, as your intelligence can only flow to you through the suspicious channel of many jarring passions and interests. It is impossible for a stranger to seize a good likeness in so short a time, and to transmit to others a faithful representation,

presentation, of a prince that does not admit him to a familiar intercourse. I don't know but sovereigns are the most difficult characters to define in a whole nation; for all princes appear pretty nearly alike; their mode of life is uniform; by seeing none but inferiors about them, they acquire a great indifference in their manner, and seldom betray in their countenance any of those strong emotions that mark the various feelings of men obliged to bustle through the world; their passions lack the relish which arises from delays and difficulties; what the French call *Ennui*, wearisomeness, is, methinks, the grand malady of princes, and therefore amusement is their main pursuit in life. In the princes of the House of Bourbon, the passion of fowling predominates; yet in the Spanish royal family, there are some who toil at the gun with more reluctance than the farmer's boy does at the plough; have a taste for arts and sciences, and wish for nothing more than

than to be freed from the obligation of following the diversion.

The ceremony of presentation is performed as the king rises from table. Charles the Third is a much better looking man than most of his pictures make him; he has a good-natured laughing eye; the lower part of his face, by being exposed to all weathers, is become of a deep copper-colour; what his hat covers, is fair, as he naturally has a good skin; in stature he is rather short, thickly built about the legs and thighs, and narrow in the shoulders. His dress seldom varies from a large hat, a plain gray Segovia frock, a buff waistcoat, a small dagger, black breeches, and worsted stockings; his pockets are always stuffed with knives, gloves, and shooting tackle. On Gala days, a fine fuit is hung upon his shoulders, but as he has an eye to his afternoon sport, and is a great œconomist of his time, the black breeches are worn to all coats.

coats. I believe there are but three days in the whole year that he spends without going out a shooting, and those are noted with the blackest mark in the calendar; were they to occur often, his health would be in danger, and an accident that was to confine him to the house, would infallibly bring on a fit of illness. No storm, heat, cold, or wet, can keep him at home; and when he hears of a wolf being seen, distance is counted for nothing; he would drive over half the kingdom rather than miss an opportunity of firing upon that favourite game. Besides a most numerous retinue of persons belonging to the hunting establishment, several times a year, all the idle fellows in and about Madrid are hired to beat the country, and drive the wild boars, deer, and hares, into a ring, where they pass before the royal family. A very large annual sum is distributed among the proprietors of land about the capital, and near the country palaces,

laces, by way of indemnification for the damage done to the corn. I was assured that it costs seventy thousand pounds sterling for the environs of Madrid, and thirty thousand for those of Saint Ildefonso. In order to be entitled to this reimbursement, the farmers scatter just as much seed-corn over their grounds, as will grow up into something like a crop; but they do not always give themselves the trouble of getting in the scanty harvest, being sufficiently paid for their labour by the royal bounty.

Being naturally of an even, phlegmatic temper, the king is sure to see events on their favourable side only; and whenever he has determined in his own mind that a measure is proper to be pursued, he is an utter enemy to alteration. As far as I can judge, by comparing the different accounts I have had, he is a man of the strictest probity, incapable of adopting any scheme, unless he is perfectly satisfied in his con-

I. science

science that it is just and honourable : of such immovable features, that the most fortunate or the most disastrous occurrences are alike unable to create the smallest variation in them : rigid in his morals, and strenuously attached to his religion ; but he does not suffer his devotion to lay him open to the enterprizes of the court of Rome, or the encroachments of his own clergy ; on the contrary, they have frequently met with rougher usage at his hands than they might have expected from a free-thinker. The regularity of his own life renders him very strict about the conduct of his children, whom he obliges to be out fishing or shooting as long as he is absent on the same business ; this he does to prevent their having time or opportunity to harbour bad thoughts ; and truly I believe he goes out so constantly himself, in order to keep down the vigour of his own constitution. He seldom addresses himself to any young men

of

of his court; but delights in conversing and joking with elderly persons, and such as are of his own age, especially monks and friars. He is very partial to Naples, and always speaks of that country with great feeling.

Since his accession, many great works have been completed; noble roads made to all the palaces round the metropolis; several others undertaken in more remote provinces; he has finished the palace at Madrid, and added considerably to those of the Pardo and Aranjuez; built new towns at Aranjuez, the Escorial, and Saint Ildefonso; and planted a great deal at Aranjuez. The Marquis of Grimaldi has the merit of having suggested and conducted most of these improvements, and of having urged on the king, who, although he has naturally no great relish for the arts, thinks it the duty of a sovereign to encourage them.

The Prince of Asturias is of an athletic

make, his countenance rather severe, and his voice harsh. He seemed in a great hurry to get away from us; but the princess stayed chatting a great while. She is not handsome, being very sickly, but seems lively, and genteelly shaped, with a very fine hand and arm. If she lives to be queen, I dare say she will render this court a very gay one; for she appears to like to go abroad, and converse with strangers. When she walks out, all persons that have been presented, and chance to be in the way, are expected to join her company, and escort her as long as she thinks proper. Her mildness and good-nature have softened much of her husband's roughness of manner; and of late he seems to have more pleasure in sitting with her in a domestic way, than in trudging over the heath in quest of game.

Don Gabriel is a tall well-looking man, but timid to excess. He possesses many talents, but his constant avocations out of doors prevent

prevent his applying to study as much as he could wish. I have seen some good pictures done by him with the flock of cloth, and have heard much of his classical learning, and turn for mathematics.

Don Antonio appears to be very well pleased with the active life of a sportsman.

The Infanta Maria Josepha has reason to envy every country wench she sees roaming at liberty ; for confinement, etiquette, and celibacy, are likely to be her lot during life.

Don Lewis, the king's brother, after having been a cardinal and an archbishop, is now on the eve of matrimony with a pretty Arragonefe girl, whom he took a fancy to last year, as she was running across the fields after a butterfly. As he has made a collection of natural history, this similarity of taste made a great impression upon him. This wedding, which the king has consented to with reluctance, has produced a total revolution in the marriage-laws of

Spain. A new pragmática or edict is published, to prevent all matches betwixt persons of unequal rank and quality; by this decree the old custom is abrogated. Heretofore it was out of the power of parents to hinder their children from marrying whom they liked, and the church interposed to oblige them to make a suitable settlement upon the young couple.

Don Lewis's bride is not to be allowed the title or rank of a princess of the blood, nor are her children to be deemed qualified to succeed to the crown; he is to reside near Talavera, where I make no doubt but he will lead a happy life, as he has a great taste for music and natural history; his cabinet already contains a very valuable collection of rarities, especially such as are found in the Spanish dominions. This prince is cheerful, humane, affable, and full of pleasantries; good qualities that render him the darling of the nation.

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The king and all the males of his family wear the ensigns of a great variety of military orders. On their left breast is a row of stars like the belt of the constellation of Orion: they are also decorated with the blue ribband of the French order of the Holy Ghost, and the insignia of the Burgundian golden fleece. They have besides the Neapolitan red sash of Saint Januarius, the red crosses of Calatrava, founded in 1158, of Saint Iago, dating from 1175, and of Montesa, instituted in 1317, and the green cross of Alcantara, invented in 1176. After all these badges, comes the blue and white ribband of the Conception of Carlos Tercero, established by the present king, on the birth of the late son of the Prince of Asturias.

L E T T E R XL.

Aranjuez, May 28, 1776.

IN the course of last week, we saw the king's stallions, some of which are beautiful creatures. Before I came into Spain, I thought handsome horses were to be met with in every part of the kingdom, but to my great surprise, found them very rare in all the provinces; so little attention has there been paid to the breed of that generous animal, formerly the boast of Spain,

At Villamejor, a few miles from hence down the Tagus, his majesty has a stable of a less noble, but not less useful race of stallions, that of jack-asses. These beasts are of a shape and size you can have no idea of: they are fourteen hands high, and have such monstrous large heads, thick legs, and rough coats of long hair over their whole
body,

body, that scarce a trace remains of the figure of an animal. They say these *Garañones*, as the Spaniards term them, are extremely furious in the covering season; I am sure, at present, they are the most stupid of their dull species. Each ass covers twenty mares, and costs near thirty thousand reals, about two hundred and eighty pounds sterling. They are bred in the mancha.

The way to Villamejor lies along the vale through a considerable new farm, called the *Campo flamenco*, lately taken in by the Marquis Grimaldi, and laid out on a grand scale. On an eminence stands the farm house, with large rooms for the royal family to take a hunter's repast in. The road up to it is a shewy, royal work, but might have been spared, had the building been erected a little lower, or had it been intended for the reception of none but common husbandmen.

In our return in the evening we overtook the bulls intended for the next day's

feast or fight. They appeared very peaceable and tractable. Whatever may be said of their ferocity, when irritated in the *arena* by darts, fire, and lances, I am apt to think they can never be so terrible or dangerous as our vicious bulls in England. Those I have seen wanted size and weight, and did not appear to me to have any real fury in their nature, till it is raised by repeated provocations, and the desultory attacks of so many adversaries. To bring them quietly along the roads from their pasture, the drovers employ certain white oxen, trained up to be decoys; these go along with the bulls till they lead them into the stables under the amphitheatre.

I have now been a spectator of several *Fiestas de Toros*, but cannot bring myself to have any relish for the diversion. Whatever they may have been in former times, they are certainly but a poor exhibition at present, though the crowds of people assembled

sembled in a circle, and agitated in a most tumultuous manner, must be allowed to be an interesting and curious spectacle. None of the royal family ever appear at these favourite amusements of the Spanish nation: the nobility no longer pique themselves upon their strength, courage, or dexterity, in these rough exercises; and the fair condescend to yield up their hearts and persons to lovers that have given no proofs of their prowess, but in combats of a softer nature: the consequence is, a total want of emulation; no gentleman cares to hazard his life in a trial of skill that promises no advantage to him of any kind. The shew is conducted with great œconomy and niggardliness; none but the worst of horses are bought for the day; and the mercenary gladiators no longer study the most dexterous, but the most secure way of destroying the bulls, being allowed so much a head for each beast they slaughter. The

money paid for boxes and seats, is appropriated to the building or endowing of some hospital.

The coup-d'œil of the amphitheatre, filled with so many spectators of all ranks, is very striking. They are so very noisy and impatient till the shew begins, and in such violent commotion while it lasts, that one is kept in perpetual alarm and flurry of spirits for the first or second time of assisting at this diversion. Contrary to the custom of the ancient Romans, who placed the senators next to the *podium*, the nobility sit here in wooden galleries and boxes, the mob on benches below, next the arena. A row of soldiers, behind the circular parapet wall, or palisado, hold out halberts and bayonets, to keep the beasts within the lists: but it sometimes happens that a bull, while yet in full vigour, will take a run, and leap over into the crowd on the benches. The confusion it creates is very great; but as the
bull

bull is itself hampered and disabled by the seats and wood-work, it can do but little mischief before it is dispatched.*

The common method of conducting a bull-feast is as follows: one or two *Toriadors*, dressed in rich jackets, broad-brimmed hats, and breeches and boots made of a tough, impenetrable leather, and holding under their right arm a long ashen lance (tipped with a broad shallow-pointed head, that can only enter skin-deep), parade on horseback round the lists, and pay their devoirs to the governor of the place. They then retire to their post, almost in front of a large door, which is opened to let out

* In some of the lists delivered out with an account of an approaching bull-feast, notice is given that people are permitted to flap their hats in the fun. Since the revolt of Madrid (when all hats were ordered to be worn cocked up, wherever the court resides) the common hangman is commanded to wear his flouched, that others may not be tempted to let theirs down, for fear of being mistaken for him.

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the bull. The fellow that opens it takes care to climb up immediately into the gallery; for it is not unusual for the bulls to stop short as soon as they get out, and make a home-thrust at the porter: some rush forth with the utmost impetuosity, and run directly at the horsemen; others gaze around, and take their measures with more circumspection.

The cavalier presents the head of his horse to the bull, and with the lance, which cuts along its shoulders, pushes it away to the right, at the same time bearing off his horse to the left: his antagonist is driven out of the line by the violence of the thrust, and its horns pass behind without hurting either horse or rider. When the man is mounted on a nimble, spirited, and docile steed, there is no difficulty in this evolution, as the motions of both animals coincide in giving additional force to the well-directed stroke: but if the horse is numb or refractory,

tory, the bull is likely to strike him in the flank, and throw both horse and cavalier to the ground.

There is another way of attacking, with a kind of forked dagger. The horseman stands close by the door, and as the bull springs forward into the lists, he plants the weapon in the back of its neck, and kills it on the spot. Should he miss his aim, there is scarce a possibility of his escaping from the enraged animal; for which reason this mode of combat is seldom practised.

To take off the bull's attention, and to make sport, several nimble fellows on foot run about and toss darts with curled paper tied to them, which, sticking in the head and shoulders, drive the poor creature to madness, and cause a great effusion of blood. This light infantry is often in imminent danger, obliged to run for its life, and save itself by flying into the recesses in the palisades, or by jumping over the parapet:

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it sometimes happens that neither the shouts of the multitude, nor the assaults of the other runners, can call off the bull from the pursuit of one particular fellow ; who has then nothing to trust to but his own agility, being totally unprovided with offensive as well as defensive weapons.

When the governor thinks a victim has afforded sufficient diversion, leave is given to put an end to its life. A well-made champion steps forth, with a short brown cloak hung upon a stick held out in his left hand, and a strait two-edged sword in his right ; the blade is always of the finest Toledo temper, and the hilt covered with leather. This *Matador* advances up to the bull, and provokes it to action ; as the bull darts at him, and makes a push obliquely, with its eyes shut, he turns it off with the cloak, retiring a little on one side to be ready for the return. On the second attack, he holds the sword in an horizontal position, with

with such steady aim, that the furious beast rushes upon the point, and by its own impetuosity forces it up to the hilt. The sword enters at the collar-bone, and either pierces the heart, or cuts the great artery. Sometimes the bull drops down dead instantaneously ; sometimes stands a few minutes, heaving and spouting a torrent of blood out of the mouth and nostrils.

When the bull proves so cowardly, or so exhausted with fatigue and loss of blood, as to refuse to run at the matador, it is dispatched by stabs in any part of the body, or worried by bull-dogs. The last bull of each fiesta is *embolado*, that is, his horns are muffled, and all the mob is let in, with sticks in their hands, to learn the trade, to beat the animal, or to be bruised and tossed about themselves. Three mules, adorned with streamers and bells, draw off the slaughtered bulls and horses between each battle.

I have

I have been thus particular in my account of a bull-fight (though you may find descriptions of it in almost every book that treats of Spain) because most of those I have read talk of royal feasts and exhibitions, which are very different things from the common shews now-a-days. Our last was a very bloody one: two bulls killed seven horses, but luckily no men lost their lives, though many had hair-breadth escapes. I never saw any thing so weak and inactive as the poor horses were; they had not agility enough to avoid one stroke: and of all horrible fights, that of the bull's tearing out their entrails, and tossing them about with its horns, was the most nauseous and shocking I ever beheld. Both the bulls were hacked to death in a very awkward manner; but the spectators were mightily delighted with the barbarity and bloodshed. We were the other night at a puppet-shew, that ended in the representation of a bull-fight;

fight; the mob in the pit was to the full as violently affected, as riotous, and noisy, as they could possibly have been at the real spectacle.

Last year a negro from Buenos Ayres, where he had been trained up from his infancy to hunt the wild cattle of the desert, exhibited some very extraordinary feats of strength and dexterity: he took a long rope, with a running noose, and throwing it over the horns of a bull, brought it close to a strong stake, fixed in the middle of the area, where he tied it tight, till he had fastened a saddle on its back, on which he seated himself; he then cut the cord, and let the beast run about and exert ineffectual efforts to shake off so unusual a load by the most furious movements. When fatigue had sufficiently tamed it, he drove this uncommon steed against another bull, which he soon dispatched, and then at one blow struck the beast that he was mounted upon, dead.

The violence of this exercise generally brought on him a dangerous spitting of blood.

The princes and their attendants are now very busy preparing, by daily rehearsals, for the *Parejas*; which we cannot stay to see, as they are seldom exhibited till the middle of June.

These *Parejas* are a kind of dance on horseback, in imitation, perhaps, of the Trojan games described by Virgil in the fifth book of the *Æneid*; or more probably of some tournament in the times of Moorish chivalry.

The prince of Asturias, Don Gabriel, Don Antonio, and Don Lewis, have revived them, and each heads a squadron of twelve young gentlemen, arrayed in the ancient Spanish dress; the divisions distinguished by the particular colour of their clothes, feathers, and horse furniture. They parade with music before them in a large tilting
yard

yard near the palace; separate themselves into detachments, and perform various intricate figures, resembling those of a stage dance. The docility and elegance of the horses, the splendour and gaiety of apparel of the riders, more than any thing there is in the game itself, render it entertaining for the first time of seeing; but it languishes from a want of that action, that spirit, which interests us so strongly in all public sports, when the actors exert uncommon strength and skill, and are, or seem to be, in some kind of danger. However, it is a pompous spectacle, and may produce very salutary effects, by rousing the nobility from their lethargy, and encouraging them to be a little more attentive to the breed and education of their horses.

L E T T E R XLI.

Madrid, June 4, 1776.

SINCE our return from Aranjuez, the mornings have been employed in turning over a multitude of books and prints, and in taking extracts of such parts as tend to elucidate the history, literature, or antiquities of Spain. In the afternoons, we have spent our time in visiting the most remarkable edifices of the city; if you except the royal palaces, there are few buildings worthy of attention, nor do I believe there is in Europe a capital that has so little to shew as Madrid; having never been the see of a bishop, it has of course no cathedral, nor indeed any church, that distinguishes itself much from the common herd of parishes and convents. Allowing some few
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exceptions, I think I may safely pronounce the outward architecture of them all to be barbarous, and their manner of ornamenting the inside as bad as that of the worst ages; most of them were erected or retouched during the term of years that elapsed between the middle of the seventeenth century and the year 1759, a period in the history of Spain, when all arts and sciences were fallen to the lowest ebb of depravement; the effects of the degeneracy of manners, the want of public spirit, and the disorder and weakness of a decaying monarchy. These vices in the political system under the three last princes of the Austrian line, could not be removed immediately on the accession of another family; the wars that shook the very foundations of their throne for the first ten years of this century, kept all polite arts groveling in the dust; and when they ventured to raise their heads again, and court the favour of the

sovereign, there seems to have been a total want of able professors to second their efforts, and assist them in returning to the paths of good sense and true taste. No mad architect ever dreamed of a distortion of members so capricious, of a twist of pillars, cornices, or pediments, so wild and fantastic, but what a real sample of it may be produced in some or other of the churches of Madrid. They are all small, and poor in marbles as well as pictures. Their altars are piles of wooden ornaments heaped up to the ceiling, and stuck full of wax lights, which more than once have set fire to the whole church. The convents which may be said to possess a good collection of pictures, are those of Saint Pasqual and of the bare-footed Carmelite nuns. The former has a fine Titian, a capital Guerchino, and many other pieces by esteemed Italian masters. In the sacristy of the latter, is a numerous collection of paintings by various hands,

hands, many of which are of superior merit. The tombs of Ferdinand the Sixth and of his queen Barbara, in the church of the visitation, are almost the only sepulchral monuments of any consequence.

The first king that made any long abode in Madrid, was Henry the Fourth. Before his reign, this was but an insignificant place, with a small castle for the convenience of the princes that came to hunt the bear in the environs, which were then as woody as they now are naked. Its situation on a hill overlooking many leagues of country, open on every side to a wholesome circulation of air, and abundance of good water, induced the emperor Charles the Fifth to build an ample palace here, which he intended to make his chief residence, as he thought the climate best adapted to his constitution. The sovereign being once fixed at Madrid, the nobility soon abandoned their hereditary castles and houses in other cities,

cities, to follow the court. They were under the necessity of settling in the houses they found ready built; and for that reason, added to the supine indifference that seized the Spaniards during the last two-thirds of the seventeenth century, and near half of this; most of the great families still continue to inhabit vast ranges of ugly fabrics not distinguishable from the common houses in the streets, except by their larger dimensions.

The palaces of the grandes that contain either statues or pictures of value, are few in number.

In that of Medina Celi are many precious monuments of antiquity in marble, the remains of a great collection brought from Italy, by one of the dukes of Alcalá.

The duke of Saint Estévan possesses many of the best works of Luca Giordano.

In the gallery of the Marquis of Santiago, Murillo has painted the life of Jacob, and a Madonna,

Madonna, which may be reckoned among the most capital of the Spanish school.

At the Duke of Alba's is to be seen a very famous picture of Correggio, called the school of Cupid; it represents Venus giving the God of Love to be tutored by Mercury. There is also an holy family, said to be by Raphael; a charming Venus, by Velasquez, lying half reclined with her back to the spectator, and her face reflected in a mirror she holds in her hand. Among the portraits, the most curious are those of Anna Bullen, and the great Duke of Alba. Here are also very fine hangings, executed after the Cartoons of Raphael, which, with the Venus of Correggio, once formed part of the collection of that nice connoisseur and unskilful monarch, Charles the First of England.

These pictures naturally lead me to speak of the royal palace; which I should have mentioned first, had I not wished to dispatch

the leffer objects, that I might have nothing to think of that could interfere with the description of the noble collection in the new palace.

The old palace was burnt down to the ground in 1734, and Philip Juvara commissioned by Philip the Fifth to give a plan for rebuilding it in the most splendid manner. The model he made is still existing, but was rejected on account of the immensity of the size, and the greatness of the expence, as well as of the want of sufficient room to place it, the king being determined, on account of the air, to have it rebuilt on the exact spot where the old one stood. Juvara dying before he could prepare a second design, his disciple Sachetti produced that which has been carried into execution; both his and his master's plans have the defect of being clumsy and confused in the windows, pilasters, and ornaments; where they have aimed at simplicity, they have sunk
their

their architecture under a load of stone ; and where they have studied to be rich and light, they have generally given into the capricious rather than the beautiful.

It is all of white stone. Each of the fronts being four hundred and seventy feet in length, by an hundred high, this pile towers over all the country, where nothing intercepts the view for many miles. The entrances and ground-floor appear more like those of some mighty fortrefs, than of the peaceable habitation of a powerful monarch, an hundred leagues removed from his frontiers. The range of large glazed arches round the inner court, resembles the inside of a manufactory : this is the more unpardonable, as they had at no great distance, in the Alcazar of Toledo, as elegant a colonnade as the nicest critic could desire. The beautiful circular court of Granada might have suggested noble ideas to the architect, but perhaps

haps at that time the very existence of such a thing was a secret at Madrid.

The stair-case was meant to be double, but it was afterwards judged more convenient to shut up one flight, as the remaining half answered every purpose. At the foot of the stairs I shall leave all my spleen, and prepare myself with unfeigned satisfaction to describe to you the beauty and grandeur of the upper apartments. I know no palace in Europe fitted up with so much true royal magnificence. The ceilings are chef-d'œuvres of Mengs, Corrado, and Tiepolo. The richest marbles are employed with great taste in forming the cornices and foci of the rooms, and the frames of the doors and windows. What enhances the value of these marbles, is the circumstance of their being all produced in the quarries of Spain, from whence it is the opinion of a learned writer, that ancient Rome was supplied with many of the precious materials

rials that enriched her porticoes and temples. At least there is no presumption in asserting, that the bowels of the earth in Spain contain most of those species of marbles, alabasters, &c. that are to be seen in the ruins of the mistress of the world, whatever might be the countries from which they were drawn. Porphyry is found near Cordova; the finest jasper near Aracena; the mountains of Granada furnish a beautiful green, those of Tortosa a variety of brown marbles; Leon and Malaga send alabaster; Toledo, Talavera, Badajoz, and Murviedro, abound in marbles of different colours; and most parts of the kingdom afford some specimen or other of jasper, besides the amethyst and its radix, for which Spain is celebrated above most other countries.

The great audience chamber is one of the richest I know. The ceiling, painted by Tiepolo, represents the triumph of Spain; round the cornice the artist has placed alle-

gorical figures of its different provinces, distinguished by their productions, and attended by several of their inhabitants in the provincial habit ; these form a most uncommon picture, and a curious set of *Costumi*. The walls are incrustated with beautiful marble, and all around hung with large plates of looking-glass in rich frames. The manufactory of glass is at Saint Ildefonso, where they cast them of a very great size ; but I am told they are apt to turn out much rougher, and fuller of flaws than those made in France.

A collection of pictures, by the greatest masters of the art, adorns the walls of the inner apartments ; but even this vast fabric does not afford room for all the riches his Catholic Majesty possesses in this branch. The detail and catalogue of a number of paintings is sure to fatigue a reader who has never seen, nor can ever rationally expect to see them ;
therefore

therefore it is incumbent upon me to select only a few of my favourites from my memorandums.

The gallery of the Escorial is said to be still more valuable, especially as the famous picture of Raphael of the carrying the cross, called the Spasimo di Sicilia, * remains in this palace unplaced, and consequently unseen.

Of the works of Titian, the most remarkable are, a bacchanalian woman lying on her back, asleep; the liquor has diffused a glow over her beautiful face, and her body is divinely handsome; one of the greatest painters of the age has often declared, he never passed before this picture without being struck with admiration. Some boys playing, full of grace and a charming variety of attitudes.

* Raphael painted it for the Church of the Madonna della Spasimo, or the Mother of Dolours, in Sicily.

Rubens :

Rubens: Christ and St. John Baptist, lovely children. A priest on horseback, carrying the viaticum to a sick person, accompanied by Rodolph earl of Hapsburgh, one of the master-pieces of his pencil.

Murillo: A vintager, wineseller, holy family, two boys; all in their different characters, excellently painted with a rich mellow colour.

Vandyke: The seizing of Christ in the garden, a strong composition; several portraits absolutely alive.

Spagnolet: Isaac feeling Jacob's hands; very capital.

Velasquez: Many portraits. His genius shines most conspicuous in the equestrian figure of the Conde Duque Olivarés, prime minister of Philip the Fourth, which I really think the best portrait I ever beheld: I know not which most to admire; the *chiaro scuro*, the life and spirit of the rider, or the natural position and fire of the horse.

Another,

Another, of a young prince also on horseback, is a beautiful piece: the little cavalier sits upright, and seems proud of his exalted station; but the fixed serious cast of his features betrays the apprehension he feels of his prancing steed. The water-seller of Seville, an admirable old figure; some women spinning; and Velasquez himself drawing the portraits of the royal family.

Mengs: Many fine things, which, even in this rare collection, do not seem intruders; most of them represent devout lugubrious events, the most gloomy of which, such as the flagellation and crucifixion, have been chosen by the king to adorn his bed-chamber. Among the profane and allegorical subjects he has treated, I was much delighted with four light airy genii over the doors, representing the different parts of the day.

The last pictures I shall mention, in order to close my catalogue with éclat, are an holy family,

family, and a Christ praying in the garden, by Correggio, not inferior to any of the small-sized works of that child of the graces. Of the last-mentioned piece I have seen more than one repetition. In the Capodimonte collection near Naples, is one exactly similar.

I have passed over many excellent pictures by a crowd of Italian and Flemish painters, that would hold the first rank in most other galleries.

In the magazines and store-rooms lie unsorted, a number of pictures, sufficient to furnish such another suite of apartments.

At the bottom of the palace-yard is an old building, called the Armeria, containing a curious assortment of antique arms and weapons, kept in a manner that would have made poor Cornelius Scriblerus swoon at every step; no notable house-maid in England has her fire-grates half so bright as these coats of mail; they shew those of all
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the heroes that dignify the annals of Spain; those of St. Ferdinand, Ferdinand the Catholic, his wife Isabella, Charles the Fifth, the great captain Gonsalo, the king of Granada, and many others. Some suits are embossed with great nicety. The temper of the sword-blades is quite wonderful; for you may lap them round your waist like a girdle. The art of tempering steel in Toledo, was lost about seventy years ago, and the project of reviving and encouraging it, is one of the favourite schemes of Charles the Third, who has erected proper works for it on the banks of the Tagus.

As the new palace stands on the brow of a steep hill, and is hemmed in very close behind by the buildings of the town, it became necessary to open a communication with the vale of Mançanarés below, that his Majesty might go into the country without passing through the whole city of Madrid. In order to effect this, a broad road

has been cut, with an easy ascent from the river to the palace, adorned at the foot of the hill with a kind of triumphal arch, dedicated to St. Vincent. This expence might have been saved, as well as the many thousands of dollars buried in the vaults and substructions that serve as foundations to the ponderous mass of buildings which compose the palace, had the kings thought proper to re-build or embellish their house at the Buenretiro, on the hill east of Madrid *. Instead of being cramped for room,
even

* The finishing and fitting up of the new palace has, in all probability, saved Madrid from ruin, by fixing the court of Spain to this spot. The king intended to have removed it for ever to Seville and the southern provinces, after the sedition of Madrid, when the populace rose in consequence of the order for cleaning the streets, and the prohibition of flouched hats and large cloaks. His surprise, resentment, and indignation, would certainly have induced him to retire for ever from so barbarous a metropolis, to the milder climate of Andalusia, had not his minister, unwilling
that

even for a walk or a terrace, they would there have had a large garden ready planted, and space behind to stretch out their im-

that so much treasure should have been lavished in the improvements of the palaces in Castille to no manner of purpose, and loath to abandon to destruction so many darling creations of his own, prevailed on his royal master to conquer his anger, and alter his determination. But the king still retains so much spleen against Madrid, as to dislike to sojourn in it; and, indeed, he escapes from it as often as decency will allow him. It was said at the time, that many persons of rank were mingled in disguise among the mob, to encourage them to proceed to extremities; but this seems a groundless report. It is very remarkable, that during the greatest ferment of the sedition, all parties retired, as if by mutual consent, about dinner-time, to take their usual nap or meridiana; after which they returned to the charge with fresh vigour, and redoubled fury, resumed their clamours, and repeated their outrages. The military force finally quelled the tumult, and the king carried his point. Every blackguard now loiters about with his hat pinned up triangularly; but the moment he gets out of town, and beyond the bounds of the proclamation, he indulges himself in flapping it down on all sides.

provements as many miles as they could wish. The air in both situations must be equally good, and for any thing there is to see in the adjacent country, which is the only difference the new palace can boast of, I should think it rather a disadvantage than a recommendation: surely the view from the Retiro towards the best part of the city, with a full command of the public walks, is much grander and more agreeable than a stretch over twenty leagues of ill cultivated, depopulated hills.

The palace of the Buenretiro is now stripped of all its best pictures and furniture. The buildings are poor, and unworthy of a sovereign, so that few parts of it could have been preserved in any judicious plan. The only remarkable things about it are the theatre, where Farinelli sang before a court, which he may be said to have governed as prime minister; a bronze statue of Charles the Fifth; and an equestrian one of Philip the Fourth,

Fourth, cast by Tacca at Florence; the posture of the horse curvetting, supported by his hind feet and tail, is very ingenious; and it appears difficult to conceive how the artist could contrive to preserve the equilibrium of such a mass, entirely thrown out of its perpendicular. The gardens are agreeable, and open to the public; one of the great ornaments of Madrid, is the fine iron railing that divides them from the walks of the Prado, and the road up the hill to the gate of Alcala, a new arch designed by Sabatini; this gate is rather heavy, but perhaps its situation requires the parts to be very solid, in order to produce a grand effect from the proper point of view; at least it ensures to them an almost eternal duration.

In the shallow vale between the Retiro and the town, which has not the least suburb of any kind belonging to it, the present king has finished the Prado, which in a few years, provided they manage the trees pro-

perly, will be one of the finest walks in the world. Its length and breadth are great, the avenues drawn in an intelligent, noble style, the foot-paths wide and neat, the iron railing and stone seats done in a grand expensive manner. All the coaches in Madrid drive in the ring here; and though the absence of the court lessens the appearance more than two thirds, yet last night I counted two hundred carriages following each other. On the declivity of the Retiro, they mean to plant a botanical garden.

The view from this walk is, as it should be, confined; for the winds are so sharp and boisterous, and the landscape so horrid all round the city, that no place of public resort could be comfortable, unless it were, like this, shut in from all distant views, and sheltered by the hills from the blasts that sweep over the highlands of Castille. To the west, it has the town, the three principal streets of which terminate in the Prado;
these

these are three noble openings, excellently paved, and clean even to a nicety, indeed so are most of the streets of Madrid since the edict for paving and cleaning them; the foreigners that resided here before that time, shudder at the very recollection of its former filth. Some of the natives regret the old stinks and nastiness, as they pretend that the air of Madrid is so subtle, as to require a proper mixture of grosser effluvia to prevent its pernicious effects upon the constitution. The extremes of cold and heat are astonishing in this place, and the winds so searching, that all the Spaniards wear leathern under-waistcoats to preserve their chests, for they pervade every other kind of clothing. In summer the dust is intolerable.

To the east and north the heights of the Retiro defend the Prado from cold. The walk extends from the gate of Saint Barbara to that of Atocha, and there joins an older avenue of trees, which reaches down to the

new canal and the banks of the Mançanarés. This canal is a late undertaking, that has hitherto answered very well: near two leagues of it down the valley is navigable; and the transporting of lime, stones, and other materials for building, the plantations of mulberries and other trees, and the sale of a right of angling, have already produced some advantages. The king has almost completed his communication highway between the Aranjuez road and the gate of Saint Vincent. It crosses the ends of the bridges called, on account of the places they lead to, the bridges of Toledo and Segovia; they are long and lofty, but decorated in the most wretched of all tastes; many writers have ridiculed them as immense piles of arches thrown over an insignificant rivulet, but the truth is, the Mançanarés sometimes swells to a great height, and pours down a terrible volume of water; the sands it has already washed down have almost choaked up some of the arches, and these

these high bridges may in time prove too low for the little brook,

In the broken banks south of the river are found large quantities of pebbles, called Diamonds of Saint Isidro. The lapidaries cut them like precious stones, and ladies of the first fashion wear them in their hair as pins, or on their fingers as rings. They have little or no lustre, and a very dead glassy water. The value of the best rough stone does not exceed a few pence.

Opposite the new gate below the palace, is the royal park of the Casa del Campo. The villa is a building of no consequence; the woods are wild and pleasant, though not so extensive as they might be made with a little attention: in the court is a grand equestrian statue of Philip the Third, by John of Bologna; and in the rooms are many pictures, among others the original of Callot's temptation of St. Anthony. In the menagery are some vicuñas or Peruvian sheep, from whose wool a very fine silky cloth

cloth is woven, and made up into winter clothes without being dyed ; it is of a rich brown colour, and fells very dear.

L E T T E R XLII.

Madrid, June 5, 1776.

IT has been my constant study, during our tour round Spain, to note down and transmit to you every peculiarity that might throw light upon the distinctive turn and genius of the nation. Experience has taught me to look upon this method as the best, and indeed the only sure guide to the knowledge of a people ; but at the same time, has made me sensible how imperfect an idea is to be acquired by a transitory view, in a progress of a few months. Customs that struck me at first as unaccountable, from my ignorance of motives and situations, have frequently since appeared to me not only proper and rational, but absolutely so much in the common course of things, that

that I have wondered how I came to put them down as extraordinary. The mistakes I have found myself guilty of in several little remarks made in the first part of my journey, have rendered me very cautious of deciding upon matters, where I could not come at a knowledge of their causes. I therefore very early learned to mistrust my senses, and applied where I expected to have my doubts resolved, and the reasons of modes and usages explained to me. Accordingly I omitted no opportunity of drawing information from the natives of all ranks; from strangers long established in Spain, and from those who, having resided but a few years here, were more likely to be sensible of the singularities of the national disposition. I cannot say my endeavours have been crowned with much success. Were I to draw the picture of the Spaniards from the manifold sketches traced by their countrymen, every province in the
kingdom

kingdom would in its turn appear a Paradise, and a Pandæmonium, a seat of holy spirits, and a receptacle of malicious devils; the most contradictory accounts, enforced by the most positive asseverations, have been repeatedly given me of the same places. I have often found the virtue one province prides itself in, as being the specific mark of its inhabitants, not only refused them by a neighbouring country, but the very opposite vice imposed upon them as their characteristic. The English, French, and other foreigners, living in Spain, are in general but indifferently qualified to decide upon these matters: as long as they retain the prejudices they brought from home against every thing that clashes with their native customs, they are but partial judges; and when once they fall into the ways of the place where commerce has fixed their lot, they become such thorough-paced Spaniards, that they can neither perceive the particularities you

speak

ſpeak to them of, nor aſſign reaſons for uſes that are grown habitual to them.

As I am not aſhamed to acknowledge my inſufficiency, I frankly confeſs it is not in my power to give what you may think a ſatisſactory character of the Spaniards. Were I inclined to flatter my ſelf-love, I might add, that I do not eſteem any of thoſe who have already written on the ſubject, much better qualified than myſelf. What I can venture to ſay, amounts to very little.

The Catalonians appear to be the moſt active, ſtirring ſet of men, the beſt calculated for buſineſs, travelling, and manufactories. The Valencians a more ſullen, ſedate race, better adapted to the occupations of huſbandmen, leſs eager to change place, and of a much more timid, ſuſpicious caſt of mind than the former. The Andaluſians * ſeem

to

* Andaluſiá is derived from the Arabic, and means a *dark evening* *weſtern country*. It was a name generally
given

to me the great talkers and rodomontadoes of Spain. The Castillians have a manly frankness, and less appearance of cunning and deceit. The new Castillians are perhaps the least industrious of the whole nation; the old Castillians are laborious, and retain more of ancient simplicity of manners; both are of a firm, determined spirit. I take the Arragonese to be a mixture of the Castillians and Catalonians, rather inclining to the former. The Biscayners are acute and diligent, fiery, and impatient of control; more resembling a colony of republicans, than a province of an absolute monarchy. The Galicians are a plodding, pains-taking race of mortals, that roam over Spain in search of an hardly-earned subsistence.

The listless indolence equally dear to the given by the Saracens to all Spain, and agrees with that of Hesperia, which it was known by among the Greeks.

uncivilized

uncivilized savage, and to the degenerate slave of despotism, is no where more indulged than in Spain; thousands of men in all parts of the realm are seen to pass their whole day, wrapped up in a cloak, standing in rows against a wall, or dosing under a tree. In total want of every excitement to action, the springs of their intellectual faculties forget to play, their views grow confined within the wretched sphere of mere existence, and they scarce seem to hope or foresee any thing better than their present state of vegetation; they feel little or no concern for the welfare or glory of a country, where the surface of the earth is engrossed by a few over-grown families, who seldom bestow a thought on the condition of their vassals. The *poor* Spaniard does not work, unless urged by irresistible want, because he perceives no advantage accrue from industry. As his food and raiment are purchased at a small expence, he spends

no more time in labour, than is absolutely necessary for procuring the scanty provision his abstemiousness requires. I have heard a peasant refuse to run an errand, because he had that morning earned as much already as would last him the day, without putting himself to any further trouble.

Yet I am convinced that this laziness is not essentially inherent in the Spanish composition ; for it is impossible, without seeing them, to conceive with what eagerness they pursue any favourite scheme, with what violence their passions work upon them, and what vigour and exertion of powers they display when awakened by a bull-feast, or the more constant agitation of gaming, a vice to which they are superlatively addicted. Were it again possible, by an intelligent, spirited administration, to set before their eyes, in a clear and forcible manner, proper incitements to activity and industry, the Spaniards might yet be roused from their
1
lethargy,

lethargy, and led to riches and reputation ; but I confess the task is so difficult, that I look upon it rather as an Utopian idea, than as a revolution likely ever to take place.

Their soldiers are brave, and patient of hardships ; wherever their officers lead them they will follow without flinching, though it be up to the mouth of a battery of cannon ; but unless the example be given them by their commander, not a step will they advance.

Most of the Spaniards are hardy ; and, when once engaged, go through difficulties without murmuring, bear the inclemencies of the seasons with firmness, and support fatigue with amazing perseverance. They sleep every night in their cloaks on the ground ; are sparing in diet, perhaps more from a sense of habitual indigence, than from any aversion to gluttony ; whenever they can riot in the plenty of another man's table, they will gormandize to excess, and,

not content with eating their fill, will carry off whatever they can stuff into their pockets. I have more than once been a witness to the pillage of a supper, by the numerous beaux and admirers which the ladies lead after them in triumph, wherever they are invited. They are fond of spices, and scarce eat any thing without saffron, pimento, or garlic; they delight in wine that tastes strong of the pitched skin, and of oil that has a rank smell and taste; indeed, the same oil feeds their lamp, swims in their pottage, and dresses their salad: in inns the lighted lamp is frequently handed down to the table, that each man may take the quantity he chooses. Much tobacco is used by them in smoking and chewing. All these hot, drying kinds of food, co-operating with the parching qualities of the atmosphere, are assigned as causes of the spare make of the common people in Spain, where the priests and the inn-keepers

inn-keepers are almost the only well-fed, portly figures to be met with.

The Spanish is by no means naturally a serious, melancholy nation : misery and discontent have cast a gloom over them, increased, no doubt, by the long habit of distrust and terror inspired by the inquisition ; yet every village still resounds with the music of voices and guitars ; and their fairs and Sunday wakes are remarkably noisy and riotous. They talk louder, and argue with more vehemence than even the French or Italians, and gesticulate with equal, if not superior eagerness. In Catalonia the young men are expert at ball ; and every village has its *Pelota* or ground for playing at fives ; but in the south of Spain, I never perceived that the inhabitants used any particular exercise. I am told, that in the island of Majorca they still wield the sling, for which their ancestors, the Baleares, were so much renowned.

Like most people of southern climates, they are dirty in their persons, and over-run with vermin.

The very mention of horns is an insult, and the sight of them makes their blood boil.* As their constitution may be said to be made up of the most combustible ingredients, and prone to love in a degree that natives of more northern latitudes can have no idea of, the custom of embracing persons of the other sex, which is used on many occasions by foreigners, sets the Spaniards all on fire. They would as soon allow a man to pass the night in bed with their wives or daughters, as suffer him to give them a kiss; and indeed, I believe the ladies themselves would look upon that favour as a certain prelude to others of greater consequence. Next to accusing a Spaniard of wearing

* For this reason the Spaniards turn their hand downwards when they beckon to any one.

horns, nothing can give him such offence, as to suspect him of having an issue.

I was surprised to find them so much more lukewarm in their devotion than I expected ; but I will not take upon me to assert, though I have great reason to believe it, that there is in Spain as little true moral religion as in any country I ever travelled through, although none abounds more with provincial protectors, local Madonnas, and altars celebrated for particular cures and indulgencies : Religion is a topic not to be touched, much less handled with any degree of curiosity, in the dominions of so tremendous a tribunal as the Inquisition. From what little I saw, I am apt to suspect, that the people here trouble themselves with very few serious thoughts on the subject ; and that, provided they can bring themselves to believe that their favourite Saint looks upon them with an eye of affection, they take it for granted, that, under his benign influence,

they are freed from all apprehensions of damnation in a future state; and indeed, from any great concern about the moral duties of this life. The burning zeal, which distinguished their ancestors above the rest of the Catholic world, appears to have lost much of its activity, and really seems nearly extinguished. It is hard to ascribe bounds to the changes a crafty, steady, and popular monarch might make in ecclesiastical matters. The unconcern betrayed by the whole nation at the fall of the Jesuits, is a strong proof of their present indifference. Those fathers, the most powerful body politic in the kingdom, the rulers of the palace, and the despots of the cottage, the directors of the conscience, and disposers of the fortune of every rank of men, were all seized in one night, by detachments of soldiers, hurried like malefactors to the sea-ports, and banished for ever from the realm, without the least resistance to the royal man-

date

date being made, or even threatened. Their very memory seems to be annihilated with their power.

We found the common people inoffensive, if not civil; and having never had an opportunity of being witnesses to any of their excesses, can say nothing of their violent jealousy or revenge, which are points most writers on Spain have expatiated upon with great pleasure. I believe in this line, as well as in many others, their bad as well as good qualities have been magnified many degrees above the truth.

The most furious example of passion and cruelty that I heard of, happened a few years ago at San Lucar. A Carmelite friar fell desperately in love with a young woman, to whom he was confessor. He tried every art of seduction his desires could suggest to him; but, to his unspeakable vexation, found her virtue or indifference proof against all his machinations. His despair was

heightened to a pitch of madness, upon hearing that she was soon to be married to a person of her own rank in life. The furies of jealousy seized his soul, and worked him up to the most barbarous of all determinations, that of depriving his rival of the prize, by putting an end to her existence. He chose Easter week for the perpetration of his crime. The unsuspecting girl came to the confessional, and poured out her soul at his feet; her innocence served only to inflame his rage the more, and to confirm him in his bloody purpose. He gave her absolution and the sacrament with his own hands, as his love deterred him from murdering her, before he thought she was purified from all stain of sin, and her soul fit to take its flight to the tribunal of its Creator; but his jealousy and revenge urged him to pursue her down the church, and plunge his dagger in her heart, as she turned round to make a genuflection to the altar. He was immediately seized,

seized, and soon condemned to die ; but lest his ignominious execution should reflect dishonour on a religious order, which boasts of having an aunt of the king of France among its members, his sentence was changed into perpetual labour among the galley-slaves of Portorico.

The national qualities, good and bad, conspicuous in the lower classes of men, are easily traced, and very discernible in those of higher rank ; for their education is too much neglected, their minds too little enlightened by study or communication with other nations, to rub off the general rust, with which the Spanish genius has, for above an age, been, as it were, incrustated. The public schools and universities are in a despicable state of ignorance and irregularity. Some feeble hope of future reformation is indulged by patriots ; but time
must

must shew what probabilities they are grounded upon. *

The

* Since I left Spain, a reform has taken place in the great colleges, notwithstanding a strenuous opposition. In 1771 Cédulas had already been issued out for visiting and examining the great foundations; as his majesty had been informed of the decline of the Universities for above a century, of the great disorders that had crept into their constitutions, and of the contagion which had spread among other literary bodies, to the great prejudice of public education, and of the state. The Cédula for the reformation is signed in April, 1777. The colleges to be reformed are, Santa Cruz in Valladolid, Saint Ildefonso in Alcalá, Saint Bartholomé, San Salvador de Oviedo, Santiago de Cuenca, and Santiago del Arzobispo, in Salamanca. These six colleges were linked together in a strict union, and formed a more powerful and compact body than the Jesuits. They had sufficient interest to procure for their own members most of the good things in church and state, and had a majority in every council and tribunal of Spain. Instead of maintaining poor scholars and professors, their immense rents, tithes, and dues, were portioned out among themselves.

They

The reigns of Charles the Fifth and Philip the Second, were the times of great men and good authors, the Spanish Augustan age; and continued a few years under Philip the Third. Since those days, it is difficult to point out any original work of learning or merit, except those of Cervantes and la Vega, who survived the rest of the geniuses of that period.

Hitherto the academies, and societies of friends to their country, the *Amigos del pais*, have gone on but slowly in their improvements in literature and agriculture. I doubt they have not yet got into a proper method; for they undertake many things, and finish none. Their great dictionary is a glaring proof of my assertion. There is now in hand an edition of Don Quixote, with prints

They are reduced to their original institutions: their old statutes are confirmed, or new modelled to the times; and poverty, which for many years had been a sure plea for exclusion, is restored to its primitive claim.

taken

taken from original drawings of the dresses and landscapes of the country, which has employed all the best engravers for some time past. * The works of Calderon have been lately reprinted ; and a new edition of Lopez de la Véga, on excellent paper, and with very fine types, is in great forwardness : Printing seems of late to be the branch they most excel in.

The catalogue of living authors is confined to a very small number.

Don Francisco Perez Bayér, preceptor to the infants, and archdeacon of Valencia, may be placed in the first line of Spanish literati. He is author of a dissertation on the Phenician language, added to the translation of Sallust by the infant Don Gabriel. He is a man of learning, a very good Greek and Latin scholar, well acquainted with the

* This work has since appeared, and does great honour to the Editors and Printers.

Hebrew and Arabic tongues, and moreover a modest man, of a friendly and communicative disposition ; he has travelled through Italy, and acquired more enlarged notions with respect to foreigners, than usually fall to the share of the Spaniards.

Don Gregorio Mayans y Siscar, of Valencia, formerly librarian at Madrid, and now an honorary *Alcalde de corte*, is likewise a scholar of great knowledge and liberal sentiments. He has published several editions of classic authors, grammars, dissertations, tracts and commentaries on the civil law, a life of Cervantes, of Dean Marti, and others.

Don Miguel Casiri's *Bibliotheca Hisp. Escorial*, certainly entitles him to some merit in the knowledge of Oriental literature. He is of a Syromaronite family, from mount Libanon, but born at Tripoly, and educated in the Maronite college at Rome.

Don

Don Pedro Rodriguez Campomanés, fiscal of the council of Castille, is likewise a man of letters. He has published something on most subjects in and out of his profession, from *Guias de postas y caminos*, to translations of Arabic and Greek. He assisted the Conde de Aranda in expelling the Jesuits, and seems well inclined to reform the other religious societies. This has made him many ecclesiastical enemies;* and it is said, he has been admonished by the

* Freedom of speech on religious matters had risen to such an height in the coffee-houses of Madrid, that at last it reached the ears of the king, who sent for the inquisitor general, whom he reproached with his supineness in a concern of so important a nature. The bishop answered, that he looked upon his office as next to a sinecure; not having any expectation of support from government, should he attempt to exert his authority. The king gave him such assurances of being seconded by the secular arm, that the holy office seized upon an advocate, tried

the inquisition, which, to the great astonishment of all the world, has lately acquired fresh strength, when most people were tempted to think it had lost its sting. Perhaps it is but a last effort before its final dissolution. The fiscal is of an active, enterprising genius; he has lately published five or six volumes of ill-digested materials for the improvement of his country. Many of his

tried him for speaking against purgatory, and condemned him to eight years imprisonment in a convent. They might as well have hanged him; for the infamy that follows every accusation before that tribunal, even when the accused is declared innocent, is so great in the eyes of all persons whatever, that a man of any spirit had better be dead than thus lost in the esteem of the public. In order to make a display of their revived power, the inquisition summoned many great officers and others, suspected of free-thinking, to attend the trial, and be witnesses of the impartiality and candid behaviour of the court, and at the same time, of its resolution to enforce its authority by chastisement.

schemes are good, but he dashes away at every thing in a bold, loose manner. The origin of these books was a small tract, called *Industria popular*, which has brought forth four others, each three times as big as its parent, under the denomination of *appendixes, education, and second appendixes*. He is perhaps the ablest and most disinterested lawyer in Spain, a country where every civil and criminal process is determined by weight of metal and interest, which they term *Empeños*. When a servant of Lord G.'s was wantonly murdered by an invalid soldier, the secretary of state told his lordship, that if he chose to have the offender hanged, there would be no difficulty, as a poor soldier could have no friends to apply or make *empeños* for him. In cases like these, justice may sometimes take its course, if they are not too lazy to execute it.

Don Antonio Ponz is publishing a tour through Spain, in which he enters into very
 prolix

prolix details ; but as he writes for the instruction of his countrymen, whom the objects he treats of ought principally to interest, his minuteness cannot be imputed to him as a fault. His observations have already produced some good effects in correcting abuses, suggesting useful works, and reforming the vicious taste of the Spaniards in many points of architecture.

Don Antonio Ulloa, who, in company with the late Don George Juan, travelled into Peru to assist the French academicians in ascertaining the figure of the globe, published an account of their tour ; he has also given a treatise upon the native Indians of South America ; in which he has degraded their capacities and sentiments almost to a level with the instinct of the brute species.

Mr. Bowles, though not a Spaniard, is certainly to be ranked among the Spanish writers ; his natural history of Spain, though

rather an introduction, and an assemblage of dissertations, than a complete work, has opened the career, and I hope will excite other persons learned in the secrets of Nature, to impart to the public their discoveries in the same study. Spain is so rich in all articles of natural history, that it alone affords as much matter for such a work as many other kingdoms put together.

I do not know whether I ought to mention Medina Conde, though a very learned man. He began his excavations in 1734, and all the inscriptions he published, except a few Roman ones, are arrant forgeries. Bayer, and the French Benedictine monks of Saint Maur, helped to detect him. I do not find he had any other object in view, than hopes of preferment; to secure the king and his confessor, he forged the sentiments of an ancient council, which establishes the doctrine of an immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary. He was also concerned for
the

the clergy in the famous law-suit of the Voto de Santiago, of which the following is a succinct account. In the year 938 Abdoulrahman, the third king of Cordova, made an irruption into Castille, and by the rapidity of his progress, and the multitude of his troops, threatened the Christians with utter destruction. In this emergency Ramiro the Second, king of Leon, implored the succour of Saint James the apostle, and visited his tomb at Compostella, in solemn penitential procession. The clergy have, by *all manner* of ways, endeavoured to prove, that in thankful remembrance of Santiago's kind assistance, by means of which he obtained a complete victory over the Moors, Ramiro the Second obliged all his subjects to pay a portion of the produce of all their lands to the church of Compostella, or, as it is worded in Spanish, *A la paya de custa medida de pan, vino y demas semillas por cada junta que tubieren de labranza.* All this is

flatly denied by the adverse or lay party, on the strength of the negative argument, that there is no proof; nay more, they call in question the very existence of the battle. The demand of the church is pretty large, for they pretend that not only what Ramiro then possessed, but also all that his successors have acquired since, becomes subject to the tax. On the other hand it is contended, that allowing all the ecclesiastical assertions to be true, the possessors of land of those times only would be liable to such a tribute, as it would be absurd to suppose Ramiro could have a right to give away what did not belong to him. The proceedings are already swelled to the size of a folio volume, and probably will increase, for it is not likely there should be an end put to the litigation, as long as the first place in the council of Castille is filled by a canon of Santiago.

It is not in my power to extend the list of writers. The common education of an English gentleman would constitute a

man

man of learning here ; and should he understand Greek, he would be quite a phenomenon*. As to the nobility, I wonder
how

* Though I make no doubt but the nation is much improved since 1722, yet I don't think it will be improper to transcribe some of the Dean of Alicant's strictures upon his countrymen at that period, as a Spaniard is very good authority, when he finds fault with Spaniards. These are his words, in a letter to Count Scipio Maffei of Verona : " No country, except Italy, abounds more with ancient monuments than Spain : in every province you meet with remnants of bridges, aqueducts, temples, theatres, circusses, amphitheatres, and other public edifices ; most of which have been reduced to their present deplorable condition by the outrages of the inhabitants, rather than by the injuries of time. Such is the nature and spirit of the Spaniards, that to overthrow the monuments of the Pagans or Romans, is accounted among them one of the most meritorious acts of piety, and most efficacious in drawing down upon them the blessing of the Almighty. Alas ! such preposterous devotion ! But how can it be otherwise in a kingdom which is ruled by the stupid, idle, monkish tribe ; where

how they ever learned to read or write ;
 or having once attained so much, how they
 contrive not to forget it. It is difficult to say
 what they pass their time in ; or what means,
 besides

it is thought a crime to deviate an inch from the rules
 laid down by the hooded blockheads? Whatever they
 sputter out, is revered as oracles of old, issuing from the
 Delphic tripod. The sluggards, puffed up with this
 nauseous adoration, thunder out the pains of hell against
 all such as so much as look with attention on an ancient
 statue. When any thing of the kind is dug up, their
 barbarous hands seize, break, deface it ; and, lest the
 pure light of the sun should be defiled by the sight of
 such an abomination, it is burnt to lime, or buried again
 in the ground. If the bust of an emperor, a philoso-
 pher, or an orator, should happen to be discovered, they
 cry out, " 'tis an idol ! away with it ! destroy it !" and
 instantly it undergoes the fate of Dagon. The vulgar
 demolish all inscriptions, as they believe their characters
 are designed to confine some unclean spirits as guardians
 over hidden treasures. Immense are the quantities of
 inscriptions that have been defaced, or thrown back
 into the holes where they had lain hidden for so many ages.

Superstition

besides inattention to business, they employ in running through their immense incomes. In the great houses one custom may contribute to extravagance ; a servant once established is never discharged, unless for some very enormous offence ; he and his family remain pensioners as long as they live : the Duke of L. pays near ten thousand pounds sterling a year in wages and annuities to servants. The Grantees, one or two excepted, are

Superstition and ignorance combine to demolish every thing of the kind. Many were sent to France ; and during the late war of the Succession, two English travellers freighted two ships with ancient monumental and historical inscriptions, which they had collected near 'Terragona.'

Since the time of Dean Marti, Don John Celaya, rector of the university of Valencia, directed a number of Roman inscriptions to be buried in the foundations of the bridge of Serranos ; and a much later instance of barbarism of the same kind, was exhibited by the Franciscan friars of S. Maria de pina, at Oliva.

diminished by a series of distempered progenitors to a race of pigmies, which dwindles away for lack of heirs, and tends gradually to an union of all the titles and estates upon the heads of one or two families. I think the Conde de Altamira has no less than nineteen Grandeeships centered in his person. Though they all style themselves *de primera classe*, as it were, by way of distinctive pre-eminence over others of a lower degree; yet I believe no second or third class exists, and it would be a very gross insult to suppose any of them were of an inferior rank to the rest of the *corps*: some difference may perhaps be made in the degrees of popular respect paid to the descendants of the heroes that make a figure in the Spanish annals, and such Grandees as have been honoured with the dignity in latter times. A Grandee can marry none but his equal. They all *thou* each other; and affect

affect to appear backward in mixing in other company.

The Spanish women are in general little and thin ; few are strikingly beautiful, but almost all have sparkling black eyes, full of expression. It is not the fashion here, as in France, to heighten their *eclat* with paint. They are endowed by nature with a great deal of wit and lively repartee, but for want of the polish and succours of education, their wit remains obscured by the rudest ignorance, and the most ridiculous prejudices. Their tempers having never been fashioned by polite intercourse, nor softened by necessary contradiction, are extremely pettish and violent. They are continually pouting for something or other, and put out of humour by the merest trifles. Most of the ladies about court are the reverse of handsome, and do not seem to have any ambition of passing for clever or accomplished ; not one talent do they possess ; nor do
they

they ever work, read, write, or touch any musical instrument : their *Cortejo*, or gallant, seems their only play-thing. I believe no country exhibits more bare-faced amours, and such an appearance of indelicate debauchery as this. The account given me of their manner of living in their familyway, as soon as they come out of the convent, and before they have fixed upon a lover to fill up their time more agreeably, is as follows : they rise late, and loiter away the remains of the morning among their attendants, or wear it out at church in a long bead-roll of habitual unmeaning prayers ; they dine sparingly, sleep, and then dress to saunter for a couple of hours on the Prado. They are never without some sort of sugar-plum or high spiced comfit in their mouths. As soon as it is dark, they run to the house of some elderly female relation, where they all huddle together over a pan of coals, and would not for the world approach the company that

that may occasionally drop in; it would throw them into the greatest confusion, were they to be requested to join in the conversation. The hour of the assembly passed, they hurry home to their maids, and, with their help, set about dressing their own suppers by way of amusement.

L E T T E R XLIII.

Segovia, June 10, 1776,

PREVIOUS to our departure from Madrid, we received from the ministers, by the particular order of his majesty, every permit and passport that could conduce to the comfort of our journey to the frontiers of France. We have leave to take out with us what specie we please, and the mules and horses we have purchased in the kingdom; our baggage is to pass unsearched.

I think

I think it my duty to acknowledge, with a grateful sense of the distinction, that during our stay near the court, the king shewed a very flattering anxiety that we should meet with no difficulties of any kind ; and more than once inquired whether we had been shewn such and such things, and whether we were pleased with our reception, or in want of any thing to render the place agreeable. We are not a little proud of the honour ; and I hope you will think our vanity too excusable to be any impeachment of the soundness of our understanding.

On the sixth we left Madrid. As we passed through the streets, we found great preparations made for the procession of Corpus Christi ; among the rest, sets of girls drest out in ribbons, dancing round maypoles.

We travelled through the park of the Casa del Campo, and over a bare corn country,

country, leaving the forests of *El Pardo* and *La Sarsuela*, two royal hunting feats, on the right hand. The last miles of the road to the Escorial, which is exceedingly good, is also uncommonly pleasant, being carried through a very noble wood, where the deer are continually crossing and recrossing before you.

The aspect of this celebrated convent, situated in a corner of a lofty ridge of mountains, struck us with awe and pleasure. As we could not see the inside that evening, we enjoyed ourselves in walking round the gardens and fields. The landscape is very grand, for at a single view you command one of the largest edifices in the world, a boundless extent of woodlands, and a clear prospect of Madrid; and beyond all a vast tract of country that loses itself gradually in the horizon.

There are many minute descriptions of
the

the * Escorial extant in all languages; let it therefore suffice to give you a general idea of this stupendous fabric and its treasures.

You have read that it was built by Philip the Second, in consequence of a vow he made to Saint Laurence before the battle of Saint Quintin, which was fought on the tenth of August, 1557. Though this story of the vow seems a little apocryphal, it may be supposed that Philip, in memory of so signal a victory gained by his troops over the French, might choose to dedicate to

* Etymology of the word Escorial, as explained by Casiri in his Bib. Hisp. Esc. "This is an Arabick word, meaning a place full of rocks, and the nature of the country agrees perfectly with it. It is to be written with an U, and not an O, as the common way is. Those that derive it from the Scoria of iron forges, have no authority for supposing that there ever were any such iron works in that neighbourhood. Sarmiento very strangely interprets it, a Beech-grove, *Esculetum*"

Saint

Saint Laurence, the patron of that day, the mausoleum he intended to erect in consequence of his father's dying request, therein to deposit the bones of that emperor, and of the empress Isabella. It was begun in 1562, and consists of several courts and quadrangles, which altogether are disposed in the shape of a gridiron, the instrument of the martyrdom of Saint Laurence: the apartment where the king resides forms the handle. The building is a long square of six hundred and forty feet by five hundred and eighty: so that allowing besides four hundred and sixty for the projection of the chapel and king's quarter, the whole circumference comes to two thousand nine hundred Spanish feet. The height up to the roof is all round sixty feet, except on the garden side, where the ground is more taken away. At each angle is a square tower two hundred feet high. The number of windows in the west front is two

hundred ; in the east front, three hundred and sixty-six. The orders employed are Doric and Ionic ; but the outward appearance of this vast mass is extremely plain, and I am sorry to say, in my eyes, very ugly. With its narrow high towers, small windows, and steep sloping roof, it certainly exhibits an uncouth style of architecture ; but the domes, and the immense extent of its fronts, render it a wonderful grand object from every point of view. The best side to see it from, for I tried them all, is about half a mile down the hill on the Madrid road, as you are then so much below it, that the building hides the bleak mountain, which presses very close upon it behind ; the green fields and woods behind it, and the place you stand in, make a good contrast, and set it off to the best advantage.

The church, which is in the center of all, is large, awful, and richly, but not affect-
edly

edly ornamented. The cupola is bold and light. The high altar is composed of rich marbles, agates, and jaspers of great rarity, the produce of this kingdom. Two magnificent *Catafalques* fill up the side arcades of this sanctuary: on one the emperor Charles the Fifth, his wife, daughter, and two sisters, are represented in bronze, larger than life, kneeling; opposite are the effigies of Philip the Second, and of his three wives, of the same materials, and in the same devout attitude.

Underneath is the burial-place of the royal family, called the Pantheon. Twenty-five steps lead down to this vault, over the door of which is an inscription, denoting that

Hic locus sacer mortalitatis exuviiis Catholicorum Regum, &c.

was intended by Charles the emperor, resolved upon by Philip the Second, begun by Philip the Third, and completed by

Philip the Fourth. The mausoleum is circular, thirty-six feet diameter, incrusted with fine marbles in an elegant taste. The bodies of the kings and queens lie in tombs of marble, in niches, one above the other. There are twenty-six of these urns, but as yet only thirteen are filled; the two last kings, and all the queens that died without issue, being buried elsewhere. The plan of these sepulchres is grand, and executed with a princely magnificence; but I own I could not help finding them too gay, too light, and too delicately fitted up for the idea we are apt to form of a chapel destined for the reception of the dead. Accustomed to feel a kind of horror on our approach to any place that reminds us of the painful dissolution of our being, we naturally expect something serious and awful in the appearance of such a repository.

The princes and princesses of the royal
family

family lie in two side-vaults near the entrance of the Pantheon.

The collection of pictures dispersed about various parts of the church, sacristy, and convent, surpassed my expectations; and I think I may venture to pronounce it equal, if not superior to any gallery in Europe, except that of Dresden. Formed out of the spoils of Italy, and the wasted cabinet of that unfortunate dilettante Charles the First of England, it contains some of the most capital works of the greatest painters that have flourished since the revival of the art. It would be a very useless trouble for me, and no entertainment to you, were I to copy out a catalogue of them, as you may find it at full length in many books. I shall just note down some of the principal pictures in the order we saw them, under the guidance of one of the Hieronymite monks.

In the Aulilla; a glory by Titian, in which he has introduced Charles the Fifth and Philip the Second, as suppliants, not as saints: there is a great and noble effect in this large composition. By the same hand a burial of Christ, and a Saint Margaret, which they have spoilt by painting a cloth to cover her naked thigh, which the scrupulous thought an indecent and dangerous sight in a convent of the votaries of penance and chastity: these are high coloured and strongly painted. A very fine piece, by *El Mudo*, of some Christians coming by stealth in the night to carry off the body of Saint Laurence; the fears, caution, and silence, of those employed, are admirably expressed; and the light given by a single torch is distributed with great judgment over the whole.

In the Chapter-house. By Spagnolet, a Saint John playing with a lamb, and smiling with exquisite grace. An annunciation,

a chef-d'œuvre of Baroccio. Christ giving his blessing, a fine half length, by Titian.

In the Vicar's Hall. Jacob's sons shewing him Joseph's bloody garment, esteemed the best picture of Velasquez : indeed the composition, expression, and intelligence, of Chiaro-scuro are wonderful ; the agony and surprise of the father is life itself.

In the Prior's Hall. A dead Christ, by Rubens ; the figure of Mary Magdalen, and the dead body are painted in his best manner. The Centurion kneeling to Christ, by Paul Veronese ; the best picture of the Venetian school in the Escorial : the characters are noble, the architecture magnificent. The crowning of thorns by Vandyke, in which the tints, semitints, and transparency of colour, are more admired than the choice of his figures ; the boy peeping through a grate, is incomparable, almost a deception. An holy family, by Rubens ; which would strike one more were it not so near another

on the same subject, by Raphael, which by its grace and beauty eclipses all the merit of the Flemish master. Another Madonna in glory, by Guido ; one of the most precious pictures in the collection : the Virgin is full of soft majesty, the Christ supernaturally pensive. The ceilings of these rooms are executed with great airiness, taste, and beauty, after designs made in imitation of those of the Vatican.

In the Outward Sacristy. The piece that pleased me most is a *Riposo*, by Titian ; in which the back-ground is one of the finest landscapes imaginable.

In the Sacristy are so many capital pictures, I scarce know which to give the second place to, for the first is undoubtedly due to the *Madonna della Perla*, by the divine Raphael. This was part of the spoil of the English royal collection ; the king of Spain was so much enchanted with it, when it was brought to him, that he gave it the
name

name of *Perla mia*, by which it has been distinguished ever since. The Virgin Mary is represented sitting, holding with her right hand the infant Jesus under the arms, who has one leg upon her knee, and the other resting upon some white linen thrown carelessly over a cradle. The Virgin's left hand reposes on the shoulder of Saint Anne, who kneels by her daughter's left side, and forms a most perfect groupe, with the figures and the cradle; the old saint leans upon her hand, which is supported on the knee of the Madonna. Saint John Baptist advances on the other side to offer some fruit in a skin; Jesus reaches out his hand to take it, but at the same time turns round to look at his mother, with all the joy and graceful simplicity natural to a beautiful child of that age. Behind is a small figure of Saint Joseph among ruins; the fore-ground is rich in flowers, the back-ground in variegated landscape; the characters of face divine; the folds of the drapery

large and flowing ; the colours harmonious ; the lights thrown in admirably ; and the figures and attitudes beyond all powers of description *. The other valuable pictures in the hall are a Madonna giving suck, by Guido : an apparition of Christ to Mary Magdalen, by Correggio ; Christ and the Pharisee, by Titian ; another holy family, by Raphael ; another, by Andrea del Sarto (which for design, composition, and beauty of tints, may be ranked with his masterpieces) ; a visitation, by Raphael ; a washing of the feet, by Tintoret. I should never have done if I were to describe minutely the beauties of the above-mentioned pieces ; I must content myself with saying, that they are chef-d'œuvres of those divine masters ; and that any one of them would give a name and relief to the best private collection.

* Raphael is thought by many to have painted the Madonna, and his Scholars the rest upon his designs.

At the end of the Sacristy is an altar, called *La santa Forma* ; this is a kind of Tabernacle or *Custoda*, of gems, marbles, woods, and other precious materials, inlaid in gilt bronze ; in which, rather than in the excellence of the workmanship, or taste of the design, consists the merit of this rock of riches. Before it hangs a curtain, on which Coello has represented Charles the Second, and all his court in procession, coming to place this *Forma*. This is undoubtedly one of the most curious collections of portraits in the world ; for all the persons are drawn with the greatest strength of colour and truth of expression, and are said to be perfect resemblances not only of the monarch and grandees, but even of the monks, servants, and guards.

In the Old Church, so called, because divine service was performed in it while the other was painting ; a martyrdom of Saint Laurence, and a Mater Dolorosa, by Titian,

are

are capital. Here also hangs the celebrated *Madonna del Pesce* of Raphael, one of the most valuable pictures in the world. I do not know how Amiconi came to doubt of its originality; but his arguments are sufficiently refuted, and justice done to the picture, in a letter from Mr. Henry, published three years ago, in the *Viage de España*, by Ponz. The personages that compose the subject are the Virgin Mary seated, with her son in her arms; on her right, the angel Raphael introduces Tobit, who kneeling presents the fish, which gives name to the whole; on the other side, stands Saint Jerome, in the habit of a cardinal, kneeling near a lion. This picture was brought from Naples, by order of Philip the Fourth. Mr. Henry rates it above all the rest of the collection; other connoisseurs have preferred the *Perla*.

The statues, busts, and medallions of the Escorial, are not in any great number, nor very remarkable for their excellence. The
statue

statue of Saint Laurence in the church is good and simple. Many have taken it for an antique, but the only part likely to be so is the head, and that I suspect to have belonged to a Bacchus.

The monks shewed us some original writings of saints; among the rest a wretched scrawl of Saint Teresa, the mystical reformatrix of the Carmelite nuns.

The Library contains a most precious collection of manuscripts, many fine drawings, and other curiosities, which we had not leisure to peruse as much as we could have wished.

Notwithstanding the coldness of the exposition of this convent, the king, for the sake of hunting, passes here several months of the year. To make the place less inconvenient to his attendants and the nobility, he has built an entire new town adjoining to it; but in spite of all he can do, the Escorial will

will always remain a most uncomfortable habitation for winter residence.

From the Eſcurial we came along the ſouth foot of the mountains that ſeparate the two Caſtilles, croſſed the great Burgos road, and took up our night's quarters at a venta in the heart of the rocks and mountains, among foreſts of aged nodding pines. Next morning, we travelled many hours over the woody heights of the *Puerto* or paſſage of *Fuenfrio*, where the ſnow was ſtill very deep on the ſummits of the mountains. Some of the turns and views through the groves are charming; now and then ſuch proſpects over the plains of Old Caſtille, the town of Segovia, and the palace of Riofrio*, opened upon us, as aſtoniſhed us by their beauty and novelty. We arrived for dinner at Saint Ildefonſo, and

* Begun, but never finiſhed, by Elizabeth Farnese, Queen Dowager of Spain.

found orders had been sent before for our immediate admiffion to the palace water-works, and other curiosities of the place.

This palace was much embellished and favoured by Philip the Fifth, who spent much treasure in forcing Nature, and rendering it in some fort an imitation of what he remembered to have feen in the garden of Versailles. His fon Ferdinand abandoned it to his mother in law. The court now comes here in the hot months of fummer, as it is a remarkable cool spot, being fenced from the hot fouth winds by a ridge of very high fnowy mountains, and fituated in the bottom of a vale open to the north. But this fituation expofes it to fuch fudden and frequent changes of temperature and feafons in the courfe of a few hours, that it is often neceffary to fhift from cloth to filk, and from filk to cloth, twice or thrice a day ; and thefe
transitions

transitions are sometimes productive of colics, and other serious disorders.

A romantic brook rolls over the rocks at no great distance from the town, through a large tract of thickets, and serves his majesty as a fishing-place. A walk is cut along the sides for a mile or two, and very much resembles modern English improvement. The quantity of fine water is one great recommendation to Saint Ildefonso. The palace is patch-work, and no part of the architecture agreeable. In the apartments is a very numerous collection of pictures; but that we had just left at the Escorial made us perhaps undervalue these. I took notes of some that pleased me, but I will not pretend to say they are the only ones worthy of admiration. A small head of Portia, by Guido, a most pathetic countenance. Saint Anne teaching the Virgin Mary to read; a charming picture, by Murillo, mellow, true, and expressive. A Magdalen's

dalen's head, by M. Angelo ; S. Francis Xaverius, by Spagnolet ; a Boy, by Murillo ; a Roman Charity, by Spagnolet ; Landscapes, by Claude Lorrain and Wouvermans ; Animals, by Rosa di Tivoli.

In the Gallery below are many fine statues, busts, and bas-reliefs. The best are, a groupe of Castor and Pollux sacrificing ; one of them has his left arm over the shoulder of his brother, and with his right pours something out of a patera on an altar, where the other twin is lighting a torch with his right, while he brandishes another with his left hand ; this is a noble piece of antiquity. A Venus kneeling on a tortoise, and anointing her head with a phial of ointment. Seneca seated. Mercury with a boy. A bust of Alexander dying, and another of Antinous. Cleopatra and a Faun.

The gardens are in the formal French style ; the trees are poor starved limes, for the soil is so shallow, and the rocks so com-

fact and near the surface, that they can strike no root. To plant them the old king had squares in the rock blown out with gunpowder, and worked with tools, then filled with earth. You may easily imagine they have not thriven much, and indeed they are with difficulty kept alive by frequent renewals of soil and waterings.

The water-works surpass all those I ever saw, not excepting the finest at Versailles. Not having any memorandums of their different heights, I do not know but those in the French king's gardens may throw the water up higher ; but I very well recollect, that the Seine-water, which they spout out, is of a muddy colour, falling down like a stinking thick fog. These jet-d'eaux of Saint Ildefonso send forth a stream as clear as crystal, whereon the sun-beams play in the most beautiful prismatic tints ; it falls around like the sweetest finest dew. The designs of the fountains are elegant, especially that
of

of the Frogs ; a centrical one, where sixteen spouts play in a regular combination ; the great cascade ; the basket remarkable for its idea and fymmetry ; it delighted us much : but the fountain of Diana surprised us with the richnefs of its decoration, and the fulnefs of its fstream ; the lofty column of water iffuing out of the trump of Fame, exceeded all our conceptions of the power of hydroftaticks ; the gardener mentioned a height to us that I durft not commit to paper on his authority, but I confefs the water went up to fuch an extraordinary elevation, that it was no longer in my power to guefs at the number of feet. Thefe fountains are fupplied by two refervoirs at the foot of the mountain. One of them is allotted folely to the fountain of Diana. The larger, which is emphatically called *El Mar*, is a very pretty lake, which, with the hanging woods and a fmall building on

the edge, forms a very pleasing subject for a landscape painter.

On our return to our lodgings, we were not a little entertained with the modest request of a friar, just alighted with some company from a carriage. He desired we would order the water-works to be played off again immediately for them, as it had not been possible for them to arrive in time to go into the gardens with us, and they intended travelling that night as far as Segovia. It was with great difficulty we could convince him, that it was a thing not to be done that evening, for want of time, and that the keepers would expect a very handsome present, if they set them agoing without orders from court.

Below the town is the manufactory of plate-glass belonging to the crown; two hundred and eighty men are employed. The largest plate they have made is one hundred and twenty-six Spanish inches long;

long; the small pieces are sold in looking-glasses all over the kingdom; but I am told the king makes no great profit by it; however, it is a very material point to be able to supply his subjects with a good commodity, and to keep in the country a large sum of money that heretofore went out annually to purchase it from strangers. They also make bottles and drinking-glasses; and are now busy erecting very spacious new furnaces to enlarge the works. To provide fuel for the fires, they have put the pine-woods under proper regulations and stated falls: twenty-seven mule-loads of fir-wood are consumed every day; and four loads cost the king, including all the expences of cutting and bringing down from the mountains, about forty reals.

L E T T E R XLIV.

Saint Jean de Luz, June 19, 1776.

TH E first object in Segovia that attracts the eye, is the Aqueduct; as the road from Saint Ildefonso runs near it a considerable way through the suburbs. It is perfectly well preserved, and does not seem leaky in any part. From the first low arches to the reservoir in the town, its length is two thousand four hundred Spanish feet; its greatest height (in the Plaza del Azogueio at the foot of the walls) is one hundred and four; it is there composed of a double row of arches, built of large square stones without mortar, and over them a hollow wall of coarser materials, for the channel of the water, covered with large oblong flags. Of the lower range of arcades, which are fifteen feet wide by sixty-five high, there are forty-

two. The upper arches are one hundred and nineteen in number ; their height twenty-seven Spanish feet, their breadth seventeen ; the transversal thickness or depth of the piers eight feet. This Aqueduct is not only an admirable monument of antiquity for its solidity and good mason's work, which have withstood the violence of so many barbarians, and the inclemencies of the seasons during so many ages, but also wonderfully beautiful and light in its design. I do not think the Pont du Gard equal to it in elegance of proportions. Antiquaries have not agreed upon the epocha of its erection ; some attribute it to the time of Trajan, and others are willing, for the honour of their country, to give the credit to Hercules. The Romans certainly were the builders of it, but no inscription remains sufficiently legible to lead to the knowledge of the precise period of their empire, in which it was constructed ; perhaps a person accus-

tomed for years to study among the ruins of Rome, the different modes of building adopted in different ages by that people, might be able, from an inspection of the stonework, to determine the æra. It is likely to remain in its present state as long as Segovia exists ; for the situation of that city on a dry rock renders this supply a thing of indispensable necessity.

The Cathedral, dedicated to Nuestra Señora de la Paz, is one of the handsomest churches in Spain, in the latest Gothic manner. The inside is majestic, and remarkably clear of the embarrassments of altars and chapels, so common throughout the kingdom. The high altar is rich and shewy.

The Alcazar, or Castle, stands in one of the finest positions possible, on a rock rising above the open country ; a very pretty river washes the foot of the precipice, and the city lies admirably well on each side on the brow of the hill ; the declivity is woody,
and

and the banks charmingly rural ; the snowy mountains, and dark forests of Saint Ildefonso, compose an awful back-ground to the picture. Towards the town there is a large court before the great outward tower, which you are as well acquainted with as I am ; the prison of Gil Blas is so well described by Le Sage, that the subject requires no farther explanation. The rest of the buildings form an antique palace, which has seldom been inhabited by any but prisoners since the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, who were much attached to this situation. There are some magnificent halls in it, with much gilding in the ceilings, in a semi-barbarous taste. All the kings of Spain are seated in state along the cornice of the great saloon : I know not whether they are like the princes whose names they bear, but if that resemblance be wanting, I am sure they have no other merit to claim. The royal apartments are now occupied by a col-

lege of young gentlemen cadets, educated at the king's expence in all the sciences requisite for forming an engineer. The grand master of the ordnance resides at Segovia, which is the head establishment of the Spanish artillery.

Another court of the palace is allotted as a prison to eleven Algerine Reis, or captains of ships. Their crews work in the arsenal of Carthagenæ. These Turks are very handsome, portly figures, with clean looks, and well-combed beards ; they are well treated, and left to themselves. Most of their time is spent in conversation, walking up and down a long gallery, smoking, and playing at chess, except when they go down at stated hours to fetch water for their own use. Confinement apart, their lives pass in ease and tranquillity. As soon as they saw us walking about the court, they immediately knew us to be Englishmen, most of them having been several times at Gibraltar, and being

being well acquainted with the British character of face : it being the hour of fetching water, and the door open, they flocked about us with great demonstrations of joy, and tears of pleasure starting into every eye. They kissed our hands, and called us *Ingles bueno bueno Amigos*, over and over again, with difficulty prevailing upon themselves to leave us to go about their work at the well. My man, by our orders, followed one of the principal men among them, and in *lingua Franca*, which indeed is the common jargon of tongues he makes use of at all times, gave him an account of the Spanish defeat before Algiers. They had heard of the preparations for the expedition, and had been much cast down with the thoughts of it, but had begun to entertain some hopes of a miscarriage, as many months had elapsed since they knew of the departure of the fleet, and not a syllable concerning its success had dropped from any of their guards.

guards. The venerable old Musulman raised his hands to heaven, and seemed to look upon the pains and irksomeness of slavery, to be more than repaid by the exquisite sensations he enjoyed in this happy moment. When his informant added that the Algerines had lost a great number of camels, the Turk turned upon him with a "What talk ye to me of Camels? had they killed thousands of them, there would still remain enough, and the beasts themselves must be proud of dying to save their country." After shaking them all by the hand, and leaving a present to buy tobacco, we took our leave of our *allies*, who followed us down the portico with longing eyes and a thousand benedictions; which, if their prophet has any jurisdiction over the roads, will preserve us from over-turns and broken limbs.

The mint is below the Alcazar, a large building, the most ancient place of coinage in the kingdom. The machines for melting, stamping,

stamping, and milling the coin, are worked by water. Copper alone is coined here, and is brought from the mine of Rio Tinto, fourteen leagues distant from Seville.

The unevenness of the crown of the hill, gives a wild look to this city. Most of the streets are crooked and dirty; the houses wooden and very wretched: nor do the inhabitants appear much the richer for their cloth manufactory. Indeed it is not in a very flourishing condition; but what cloth they make is fine.

The country hereabouts has the reputation of being the best for feeding the kind of sheep that gives the celebrated wool: but as those flocks wander over many other parts of the kingdom, and are not bred here, I do not see any right Segovia has to this exclusive claim. A small quantity of it is manufactured in the country, and through mismanagement, laziness, or lack of hands, the greatest part of the wool is carried to
France;

France ; and, at Orleans and other places, made up into caps and cloths, many of which return to Spain for sale.

The country grew sandy as we advanced into Old Castille. In general it is extremely open, but now and then we came to woods of pine-trees, especially near the rivers. It appears much better land, and more populous, than New Castille, for the villages stand pretty thick in most parts of it. At Villa de Santa Cruz, the only thing we remarked was a cow's tail, in which the hostess stuck her combs ; as this was the first instance we had met with of a custom which prevailed in Sancho Pança's time, and was of such service, in furnishing the barber with a false beard, we took particular notice of it. You know how fond I am of the fat fellow, and how happy I must be to find any thing that explains and exemplifies the traits of his inimitable history.

Olmedo,

Olmedo, which I think is a place that occurs in *Gil Blas*, is a ruined town in a fine plain, rich in corn and pasturage, in droves of brood mares, and flocks of black sheep; some pine-woods, in one of which is a grand monastery of Bernardines, bound the horizon very agreeably. We slept on the tenth at Hornillo, a small village on the river Aldaya, the banks of which are prettily wooded, and form many interesting points of view.

The next morning we came through a very sandy tract of forest land, to a hill from which we discovered the plains of Valladolid, and the course of the Duero; a fine river, that falls into the ocean at Porto, in the kingdom of Portugal. Beyond a chain of bare white hills, at one of their angles, stands the town of Simancas, where, in 938, was gained that signal victory over the Moors, which gave rise, as is pretended, to the voto de Santiago. The archives of
the

the realm were deposited, by Philip the Second, in the castle of Simancas, where they still remain. Valladolid is a very large, rambling city, full of edifices; which, during the reign of Philip the Third, who made it his constant residence, were the palaces of his great officers and nobility. Being abandoned by their owners, who have followed the court in all its different emigrations, they are fallen to decay, and exhibit a picture of the utmost desolation: the palace of the king is so ruined, that I could with difficulty find any body to shew me the spot where Philip had resided. The private houses are ill-built and ugly. The great square, some streets built upon porticos, many colleges and convents, are still grand, and denote something of the magnificence of a place that had been long honoured with the presence of its monarch; but in general, Valladolid has the appearance of having been run up in a hurry to receive the court, and

as if it had been meant to rebuild it afterwards at leisure, of more durable materials than bad brick and mud, the composition of most of its present houses. The Dominican convent, a Gothic edifice, is the most remarkable in the city. The university is in the last stage of a decline, and trade and manufactures at as low an ebb. It is melancholy to behold the poverty and misery painted in the meagre faces, and displayed in the tattered garments of the common people; the women go quite bare-headed.

We passed the river Pisuerga at Cabeçon, which has the reputation of producing the best wine in the province. The soil is clay mixed with sand, and most of it planted with vines. The hills are composed of strata of clay and marle; great scarcity of wood; but a much more cheerful look in the country than in any part of New Castille: the number of small towns or large villages rather considerable; on most of the hills,

4

ruined

ruined towers and remains of ancient castles. We travelled up the Puiferga for many miles, through a broad vale, bare of trees, but tolerably well cultivated; we crossed and recrossed the river several times; the largest bridge is near Torquemada, of twenty-two arches. The houses hereabouts are built with pieces of clay squared and baked in the sun, but their concoction is very imperfect.

On the 13th we came to a much more agreeable country, better provided with wood, and more thronged with habitations; on every steeple one or two storks' nests; those birds seem to be held in the same veneration here as they are in the Low Countries. That morning we arrived at Burgos, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Castille, but long since abandoned by its princes to obscurity and decadency. The approach to it, up a long valley, is rather pleasing: the castle, the ancient broken walls
sloping

sloping down from it, and lower down the cathedral, terminate the prospect in a picturesque manner. The dress of the women differs from all those we have seen elsewhere ; and were there any smartness in their manner, any beauty in their faces, or even the usual bright Spanish eye to peep out from under their veil, it would be a very becoming garment for a country girl : but all those we saw were the ugliest awkward hoydens in nature ; they wear large, clumsy shoes, almost as bad as the French sabot, a brown gown thrown back and tied behind, a blue and white apron, and a large, flowing, white veil fastened with blue ribands. The montero caps of the men are all faced with red or blue.

Before we entered Burgos, we passed by the famous Abbey delas Huelgas, one of the best endowed in Spain. Its nuns are all noble, and the abbess almost a sovereign princess, by the extent of her territories,

the number of her prerogatives, and the variety of her jurisdictions. The convent is not a shewy building ; the situation is low and unpleasant. The little river Alarcon separates the suburbs from the city ; which is built in a very irregular manner, on the declivity of a steep hill, commanded by an antique castle, once the abode of the counts, and afterwards of the kings of Castille.

As soon as the petty fovereigns of Asturias ventured to steal out of their mountainous fastnesses and retreats, to extend the limits of their little kingdom at the expence of the Mahometan caliphs, their conquests seem to have been entrusted to the care of generals or counts. As the kings of Leon and Asturias were always busied in warfare, if men of strong bodies and valiant spirits, and if princes of a weak constitution and an unwarlike turn, were unable to form any strong opposition, these counts gradually encroached upon the royal prerogative, and converted a
precarious

precarious delegated command into the solid establishment of hereditary power. By these means, about the close of the tenth century, the counts of Castille became entirely independent of the crown of Leon, in the time of Ferdinand Gonzales, and during the minority of Ramiro the Third, king of Leon. Some authors have advanced, that the Castillians at one time had formed themselves into a commonwealth, governed by two judges, one appointed to superintend all civil affairs, and the other to command the troops. But the proofs alleged to support this opinion, are extremely weak and suspicious; it is however a favourite story in Castille.

The male line of Gonzales failed in the person of Garcias Sanchez, who was murdered by some exiled noblemen; and his sister Munia transferred the sovereignty to her husband Sancho the Great, king of Navarre. This prince was the common stock

of all the princes that afterwards governed the several monarchies of Spain. The title of king of Leon was soon absorbed, or at least superseded in point of rank, by the new one of Castille.

Over the city gate are some statues of the judges or counts, still objects of great veneration in the eyes of the patriotic Castilian.

The cathedral is one of the most magnificent structures of the Gothic kind, now existing in Europe; but although it rises very high, and is seen at a great distance, its situation in a hole cut out of the side of the hill, is a great disadvantage to its general effect. Its form is exactly the same as that of York-minster, which I look upon to be the criterion according to which the beauties or defects of every Gothic church are to be estimated. At the western or principal front are two steeples ending in spires, and on the center of the edifice rises a large square tower,

tower, adorned with eight pinnacles ; on one side of the east end is a lower octagon building, with eight pyramids, which correspond exactly to the Chapter-house at York. We were struck with the resemblance between these buildings ; both were embellished with a profusion of statues ; most of those at York were destroyed in the first emotions of iconoclastic zeal ; those of Burgos are still in full possession of the homages of the country, and consequently entire ; several of them are much more delicate than one would expect, considering the age they were sculptured in. Santiago, the patron of this cathedral, stands very conspicuous on his war-horse among the needles of the main steeple ; and the Virgin Mary is seated in solemn state over the great window of the west porch. The foliage-work, arches, pillars, and battlements, are executed in the most elaborate and finished manner of that style which has usually been called *Gothic* ;

of late this appellation is exploded, and that of *Arabic* substituted for it. I confess, I see some reason to doubt of the propriety of this second epithet. In the buildings I have had opportunities of examining in Spain and in Sicily, which are undoubtedly Saracenic, I have never been able to discover any thing like an original design, from which the Gothic ornaments might be supposed to be copied. The arches used in our old cathedrals are pointed; those of the Saracens are almost semi-circular, whenever they are not turned in the form of an horse-shoe. The churches of our ancestors shoot up into spires, towers, pinnacles, and filigree work, and no such thing as a cupola seems ever to have been attempted; the mosques and other buildings of the Arabians, are rounded into domes and coved roofs, with now and then a slender square minaret terminating in a ball or pine-apple; the Arabic walls shine with painted tiles, mosaics, and

and stucco, none of which ever appear in our ancient edifices ; the pillars in the latter are generally grouped many together, and from a very small member of an entablature springs one or two arches ; in the former, the columns stand single, and if placed more than one together to support some heavy part, they never touch, or as it were grow into each other ; there is always a thick architrave at least to support the arch, and commonly an upright piece of wall to resist the lateral pressure. Whenever it happens, as in the great divisions of the mosque at Cordova, that four pillars are joined together, it is by means of a square wall or pier, at the four angles of which are placed the columns, perfectly separated and distinct. In all the varieties of capitals I have taken drawings of, I never found one exactly the same in design or proportions, as our Gothic ones in the churches of England, or in those of France, at least such as I have examined ; viz. Saint Denis, Amiens, Rouen,

Bordeaux, Tours, and others. The Christian structures are extremely lofty, and full of long windows with painted glafs; the porches and doors are deep recesses, with several arches one within another, crowded with little saints and angels. Now every thing is different in the mosque of Cordova, the only one I have ever seen, but which I think may be fairly deemed a proper sample of Arabian sacred architecture, to establish a judgment upon; whether we consider its antiquity, being built before the ninth century; its present state, which, some parts excepted, is exactly as it was a thousand years ago; or lastly, the princely hands that raised it. It was erected by Abdoulrahman the First, probably upon the designs, and under the inspection of the ablest architects of the age, and according to the method of distribution observed in holy edifices built in Arabia and Egypt. Here, and I have reason to think it is so in most, if not all, mosques, the
elevation

elevation of the roof is trifling, not a seventeenth part of the length of the iles ; there are no windows of any size, and what there are, are covered with filigree-work in stone, so as never to admit any great quantity of light, which was received from sky-lights and cupolas, and from the occasional opening of the doors ; the sinking back of the arches over the gates is scarce perceptible, as they are almost of an equal projection with the wall of the building. From all these differential marks, I am inclined to suspect that our old structures have been new-named, and Mahometanised, without sufficient proof of their Arabic origin. At the same time I acknowledge it is difficult to find them a more satisfactory and genuine pedigree.

The best age of that style of construction began in England in the reign of Henry the Third, for till then we built in the clumsy manner called Saxon, destitute of every recommendation but solidity ; the new taste
came

came in all probability from France, introduced by some Provençals that followed the queen. If you suppose it imported into that kingdom by those that returned from the crusades, we must of course set it down as an eastern invention. The question is what part of the east it came from, and whether it was the same as that employed by the Arabians. If there were clear proofs of its being a branch of the Arabic architecture, it would still appear extraordinary, that its very first introduction into Christendom should be attended with so great a variation from the models it was meant to imitate ; and that any prince or learned priest that thought it worthy of being employed in his country, should immediately set about new fashioning it in all its points. We may, if we please to indulge our fancy, say that some sublime genius started out from the dusty gloom of a monastic library, altered and improved upon the hints he found

found in books of Arabian architecture, substituted bold and astonishing ideas of his own; found bishops, princes, and abbots, willing to adopt them; and built churches in a style entirely new, and apparently original. We may suppose him to have formed a school of other monks, the only architects of those ages among the Christians; and that these pupils gradually new modelled the precepts of their master, and reduced his method to certain rules; which afterwards served as guides through all the fantastic mazes of our ecclesiastical architecture. Some persons have suspected it to have been the manner practised by the eastern Christians, and not adopted by the Arabs; who might disdain to have any thing similar in their places of worship, with those of a conquered people. Others have been of opinion, that it comes originally from Persia, or further east; and some again maintain it to be an European invention, or at least a
barbarous

barbarous mode of building brought by some great genius to the elegant perfection we behold in our cathedrals. The argument would require a great number of comparisons, confrontations, and combinations, to find out the connection between the two manners: such a disquisition belongs more properly to a treatise than to a letter, of which it has already engrossed too large a share.

In a narrow lane near Burgos we were detained for some time by the passing of many small carts, coming down from Aragon with spears for bull-fighting, iron, and chairs. These are the carts that suggested to Cervantes the idea of Merlin's chariot in the second part of *Don Quixote*. Their wheels make a creaking or grinding, which I can compare to nothing but the noise of iron mills and fire engines. It is the loudest and most piercing sound imaginable; and
before

before you are acquainted with the cause, it is not possible to guess what produces it.

We proceeded along the river side, through a well-wooded, handsome vale. The Carthusian convent stands beautifully on a round hill; its old chapel answers the idea of a fine object in an English garden. Behind it rises a long ridge of green hills, over which appear the snowy summits of some very distant mountains. We slept at a poor place, where we were much diverted with the head attire of the married women; it consists of a black periwig, faced all round with the wool of a black lamb, ending behind in two long plaited tresses, that reach down to their rumps. Previous to their nuptials, they are obliged to make up this elegant kind of helmet, which renders their natural ugliness still more horrible.

All the fourteenth we travelled from vale to vale, over the bare hills that separate them. The most fertile is the vale of Saint Mary,
where

where the corn was uncommonly strong and healthy, but the road so bad as to put us frequently in danger of an overturn. At length all these alternate plains and hills brought us to the foot of the Sierra del Oca; a lofty ridge of mountains that runs from west to east, and seems to block up all further progress. As our muleteers had informed us that we were not to climb the mountain, we were long considering where the pass could possibly be. Pancorvo proved to be the place; a long village in a defile that winds through the Sierra, with immense piles of rock impending on every side. It wears a most awful, tremendous aspect, which was heightened by the black clouds that hung upon the summits of its cliffs, and soon after burst in a violent storm of thunder and rain.

On the fifteenth, having passed through with great ease, as the road is extraordinary good, we descended into the fruitful plains
of

of the Ebro. This noble river did not appear to us much less here at Miranda, than it did above two hundred and thirty miles lower, at Tortosa, where we crossed it eight months ago. The bridge was destroyed last year, and a ferry now supplies its place ; and is likely to do so long, for this is not the country for speedy repairs. Miranda is well situated, but its buildings are poor, and its gates and streets so narrow that a carriage cannot pass through them. The plain is of great extent, bounded to the west by the blue mountains, where the Ebro takes its rise. In these flats, which are frequently overflowed, the soil is a rich loam, where they cultivate a large quantity of oats, a grain not much sown or used in the southern provinces. We ascended the hills to a gravelly country planted with vines, and at Puebla de Triviño, bade adieu to all bad roads, and villainous inns ; for here we entered Alaba, a division of Biscay, and immediately

diately came to the finest road imaginable, made at the expence of the province, and carried through the whole signory of Biscay, to the frontiers of France. Their only fault is being rather narrow in some places, which indeed is excusable from the mountainous and difficult passes they have been conveyed over, where more space is scarce to be contrived. Every thing round us now assumed a different appearance; instead of the bare, depopulated hills, the melancholy, despondent countenances, the dirty inns, and abominable roads, that our eye had been accustomed to for so many months; we here were revived by the sight of a rich, studied culture, a clean-looking, smiling people, good furniture, neat houses, fine woods, good roads, and safe bridges.

Biscay is the country of the ancient Cantabri, so imperfectly subdued by Augustus, and so slightly annexed to the Roman empire. Their mountains have in all ages
afforded

afforded them temptations and opportunities of withdrawing themselves from every yoke that has been attempted to be imposed upon them. Their language is accounted aboriginal, and unmixed with either Latin, French, or Spanish. It is so totally different from the Castilian, that we seldom met with any of the peasants that understood one word of Spanish. The Biscayners are stout, brave, and choleric to a proverb. The best sailors in Spain belong to the ports of Biscay, and its mountains produce a very valuable race of soldiers. Their privileges are very extensive, and they watch over them with a jealous eye. They have no bishops in the province, and style the king only *Lord of Biscay*. The men are well-built and active, like all mountaineers. The most singular thing in their dress is the covering of their legs; they wrap a piece of coarse grey or black woollen cloth round them, and fasten it on with many turns of tape; it answers

precisely the idea I have of Malvolio's cross-gartering in the Twelfth-night. The women are beautiful as angels, tall, light, and merry; their garb is neat and pastoral; their hair falls in long plaits down their backs, and a veil or handkerchief, twisted round in a coquetish manner, serves them for a very becoming head-dress: on Sundays they generally wear white, tied with rose-coloured knots.

The first Biscayan inn we stopped at, is delightfully situated near the banks of the romantic Sahorra. We were very lavish of our praises upon the smart habiliments of the landlord's daughters, his own civility, and the cleanliness of every thing in his house.

We came in the evening an easy journey to Victoria, through the finest plains perhaps in Europe. I cannot find words to express its wonderful fertility, the crowds of villages in sight on all the little eminences,
the

the noble woods that stretch round the corn-lands, and the happy, busy looks of the crowd which we met returning from market ; every cottage has its little garden, neat and flourishing.

Victoria is placed on a hill, and makes a figure from all the environs ; but the streets are narrow and gloomy, the houses being built of a very dark-coloured stone.

Having traversed the rich plains beyond the capital of Alava, we ascended the hills into the woods, which consist of oak, beech, and chestnut. They pursue here the same method as the inhabitants of the French side of the Pyrenees, that of planting their timber-trees ; wherever an old one is felled, they take care to replace it with a young set about four feet high.

Near Salinas, a village inhabited by the workmen of the iron forges, we entered the very heart of the mountains ; which would be impassable from the steep ascents

and rapid slopes, had they not lessened the difficulties by proper windings of the road, and by great attention to the keeping of it in perfect repair. The tops of all these mountains are crowned with forests, or covered with pastures; the acclivities cultivated as far as their nature will allow, and the deep vallies thronged with villages, hamlets, iron-works, orchards, and gardens. The timber of the mountains, and the iron smelted in the forges, employ a great number of hands, and give life and spirit to the whole province. The little towns are full of good houses, built by those whose industry and enterprizes have been rewarded with success. These manufactories and undertakings diffuse opulence among the middle class of men, and enable them to indulge the patriotic vanity of settling comfortably in their native hamlets.

Having winded along a charming valley for many hours, and repeatedly crossed a
 beautiful

beautiful river, we passed over a high chain of mountains at the Puerto de Villareal. We there enjoyed fine, but not extensive views, of a mountainous, well-wooded country. We then descended into the charming valley of Tolosa, a large town, which, like all those we passed through, swarms with inhabitants. The landscape on every side is divine, and approaches the nearest to those of La Cava in the kingdom of Naples, or those of Tivoli in the Roman state, of any I recollect having met with in the course of my travels.

Early on the eighteenth, we gained the summit of a woody hill, from whence we overlooked the Bay of Biscay, Fontarabia, Andaye, the course of the Bidassoa, the province of Labour in France, and a prodigious range of the Pyrenees. A more delightful prospect never existed, even in the divine imagination of Claude Lorrain.

About eleven, we arrived at the Bidassoa ;

a broad, clear stream, that issues, with great majesty, out of a valley among the mountains, and flows through the marshes into the sea. The water was so low that the carriages passed through the river; but we took the ferry-boat, and landed in France.

J O U R N E Y

FROM

B A Y O N N E

T O

M A R S E I L L E S.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following pages might have served as a prelude to my Neapolitan tour, but at the time of its appearance, I was extremely unwilling to undertake a description of any part of France, and therefore, instead of continuing the account of my Travels from the confines of Spain, I chose to commence my narrative, at the instant of our leaving Marseilles. France is a kingdom so often visited by English travellers, that I had little hopes of collecting new materials either for entertainment or instruction ; but I am since become conscious that this omission destroys the connection between my Letters on Spain and my Travels in Italy, and hurries my reader too abruptly from the Ocean to the

INTRODUCTION.

the Mediterranean sea. To supply this deficiency, I now publish my observations on the intervening provinces, and hope they will fill up the chasm in a satisfactory manner, and thus form one regular and well-connected series of travels.

J O U R N E Y

F R O M

B A Y O N N E

T O

M A R S E I L L E S.

L E T T E R I.

Tarbes, June 22, 1776.

AFTER completing a circle of sixteen hundred miles, I am at length returned to the point from which I took my departure in October. My last letter informed you briefly, that I had passed the limits of the Spanish dominions, and was once more landed on the territories of France. These monarchies are divided by the waters of the Bidassoa, impetuous and difficult at
I high

high tide, but at other times, clear and placid, flowing through a delicious vale, that ill accords with the ideas generally entertained of the boundaries between two mighty empires: the ease with which we were ferried over, and the absence of all military parade, rendered it still more unlike; but no sooner did we set foot on French ground, than we were made sensible of the separation; a most rigorous search of our baggage took place; the serenity of the weather was a fortunate circumstance, for every article belonging to us was taken out of the trunks, and spread upon the grass; the collecting and stowing of them again in their respective places, consumed the best part of the day, and night overtook us before we could reach Saint Jean de Luz.* The situation of this town is charming. The Ninette falls into the sea at a small distance below, having first swelled

* Luz, or Luis, signifies mud in Basque, very characteristic of the soil.

out into a double bay, capable of admitting vessels of considerable tonnage; but its entrance is difficult, and the road dangerous in stormy weather. The shore is lined with buildings, and sheltered by hills of moderate elevation, which rise gently all around, contrasting their green slopes and woody summits with this grand expanse of water. The adjacent country is highly and variously cultivated, and the Pyrenean mountains, which display softer features than eminences of similar height usually possess, close in the background with pleasing dignity.

The language peculiar to the province of Labour* is Basque, which, I am informed, bears little affinity to any of the neighbouring dialects, and claims a lineal descent from the aboriginal tongue of the Cantabrians. I fear no monuments remain to guide etymologists in a research how far this claim is

* A corruption of *Lapurdum*, the ancient name of Bayonne.

admissible, or how much the language is altered, improved, or degenerated from the old stock: it abounds in vowels, and its sounds are soft and musical.

The spirit of their ancestors still lives in the Basques and their neighbours the Biscayners, who boast of the same origin: all we read in ancient history of the agility, perseverance, and industry, of the Cantabrians, may be recognized at this day in every part of these provinces. Their early habits of exercise improve the neatness of limb and flexibility of muscles which distinguish them when adults: if they dance to the sound of their native tambourine, the fire of their character pervades and animates the whole frame. Ancient Greece herself could not present her painters and sculptors, with models of more exquisite elegance than the young women of this country; a flowing white veil fastened with bunches of red ribbons, and the freedom which their short
garments

garments leave for every movement, enhance the natural beauty of their form.

From Saint Jean to Bayonne the landscape is delightful, the soil rich in productions of many kinds, the surface pleasantly uneven and crowned with noble woods, but the roads from the banks of the Bidassoa are insufferably bad. I cannot account for this uncommon neglect either on political or æconomical principles, especially as the highways in the next Spanish province, are judiciously made, and carefully maintained. Can it proceed from the inveteracy of ancient habits, which perpetuates the nuisance, and prevents the present set of ministers from thinking themselves authorized to facilitate a communication, which their predecessors had wisely rendered as difficult as possible? Our carriages, which had passed unbroken over the rocks of Valencia, and through the clays of Andalusia,

were

were shattered to pieces during this journey.

* Bayonne is situated three miles from the Bay of Biscay, at the conflux of the rivers Adorer and Nive, both navigable; but their mouth is embarrassed with shifting sands, which it requires the skill of an experienced pilot to avoid. The hills on each side are defended by fortifications, traced after the plans of Marshal Vauban, in order to render impregnable a place that was long the Key of France, and as such frequently but unsuccessfully attempted by the Spaniards: although every apprehension from that quarter has ceased since the crown of Spain has been fixed on the brow of a prince of the Bourbon line, the works are nevertheless kept up, and a considerable garrison maintained to man them. Twenty-six thousand inhabitants are computed to reside in Bayonne,

* Bayonne signifies in Basque a *good Bay*.

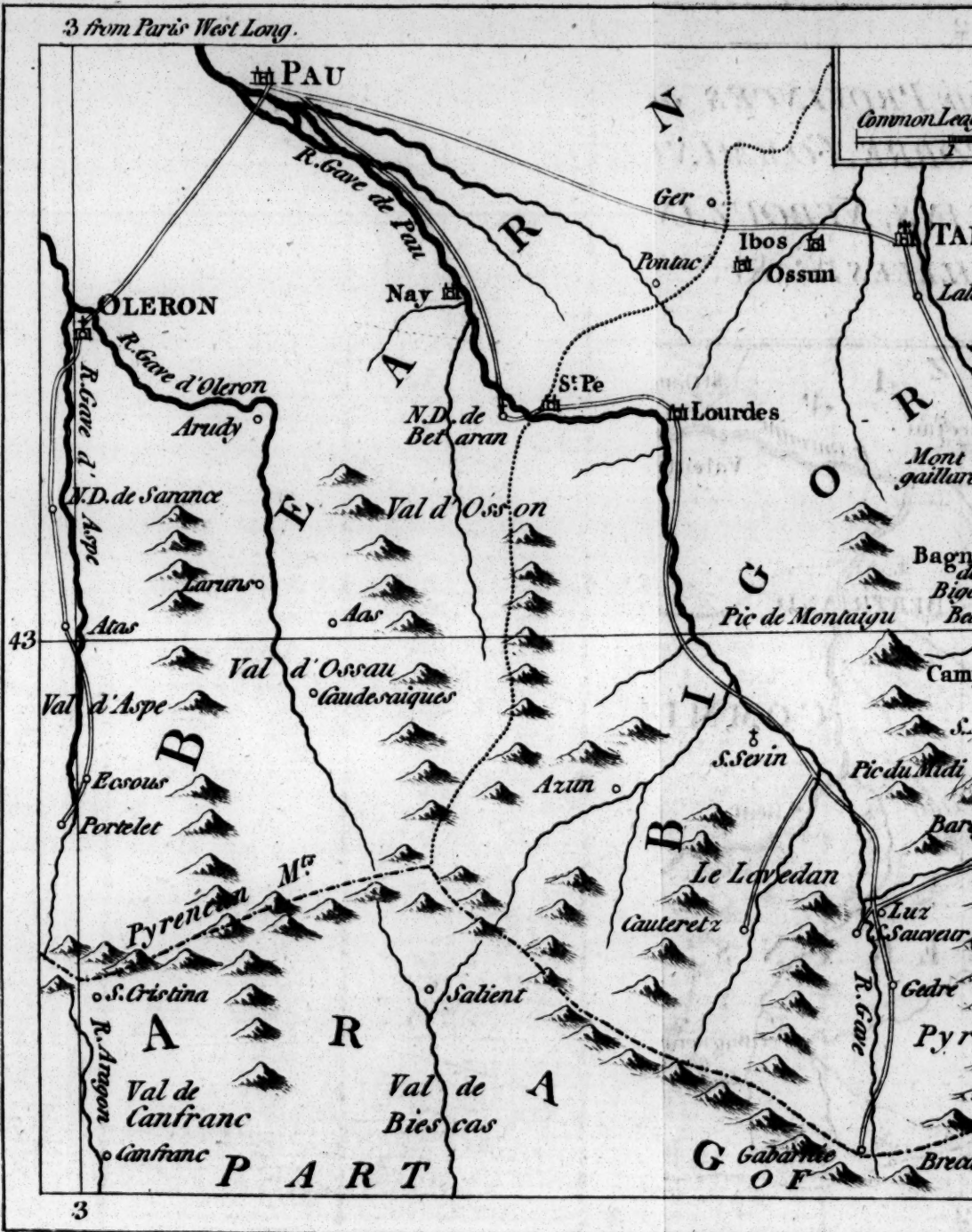
Bayonne, near four thousand of which, are of the Jewish persuasion : when this persecuted race of men was driven out of Spain and Portugal, great numbers of them took refuge here ; they increased so rapidly, as soon to feel the necessity of sending forth a colony to Bordeaux, where it has flourished surprisingly by brokerage and privateering.

Bayonne was an independant viscounty till subdued by the kings of England, dukes of Aquitaine : in 1450, when they were stripped of all their continental possessions, it passed with the rest under the dominion of Charles the Seventh, king of France. Commerce is here carried on with great spirit ; the neighbouring provinces of France draw a large proportion of their foreign commodities from this port, and send hither in return their superfluous productions to be forwarded to a proper market ; but the most lucrative branches of its traffic are supported by an intercourse with Spain. A great

number of ships are built here, as many materials for construction are to be had at the first hand. In war-time Bayonne fits out stout and well-appointed privateers, and in days of peace its mariners approve themselves hardy and industrious in commercial pursuits; they were the first that attempted the whale and Newfoundland fisheries, and invented the method of curing cod; they discovered Canada, and penetrated into the heart of that vast and savage region, by sailing up the river of Saint Laurence, thus opening a new scene for the ambition and animosity of two rival nations.

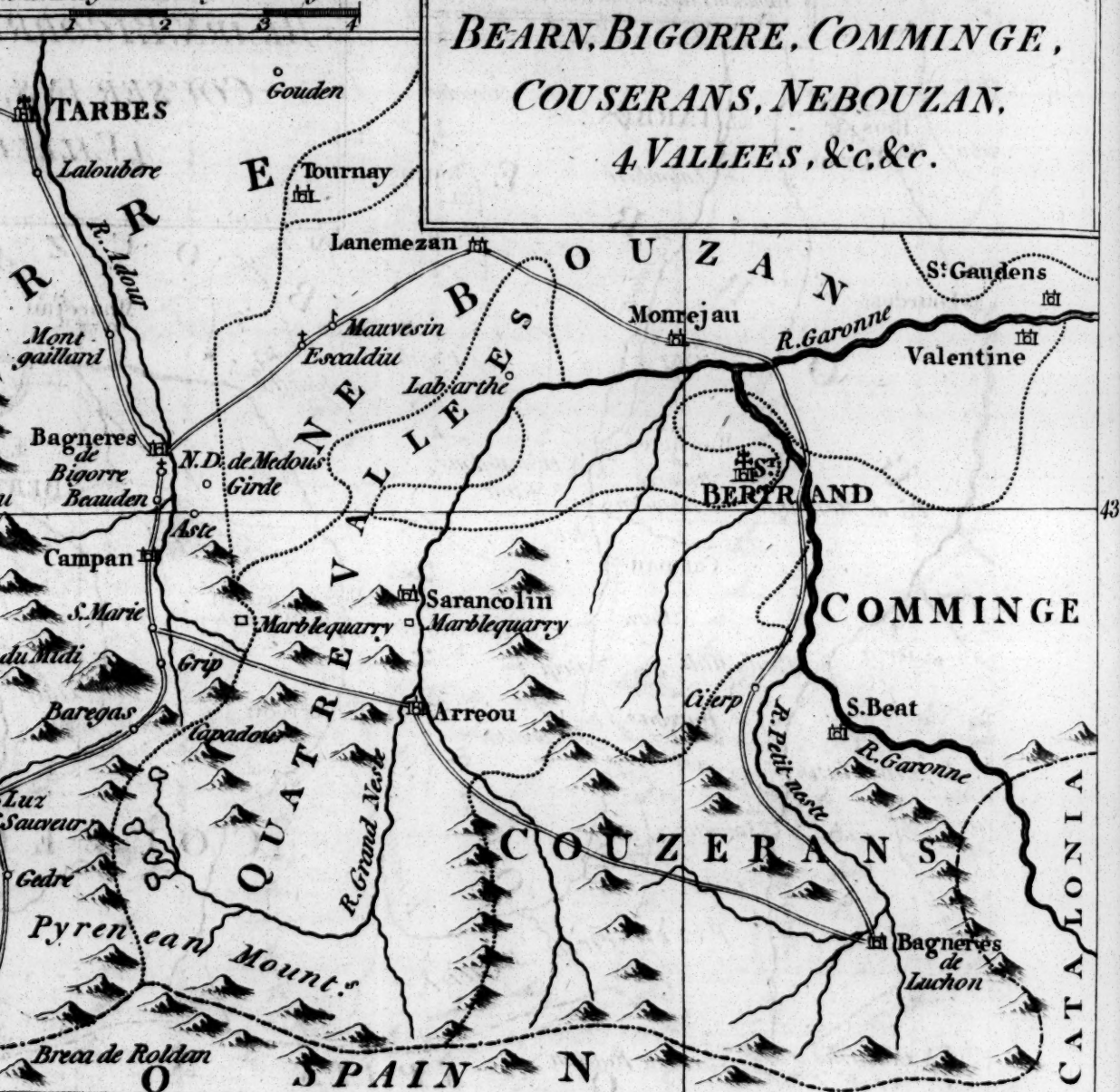
The coachmaker having pronounced our chaises incapable of proceeding, without great repairs, we rode post to Tarbes: the haste we made to reach this city, and the intense heat of the day, precluded all observations on the places we passed through.

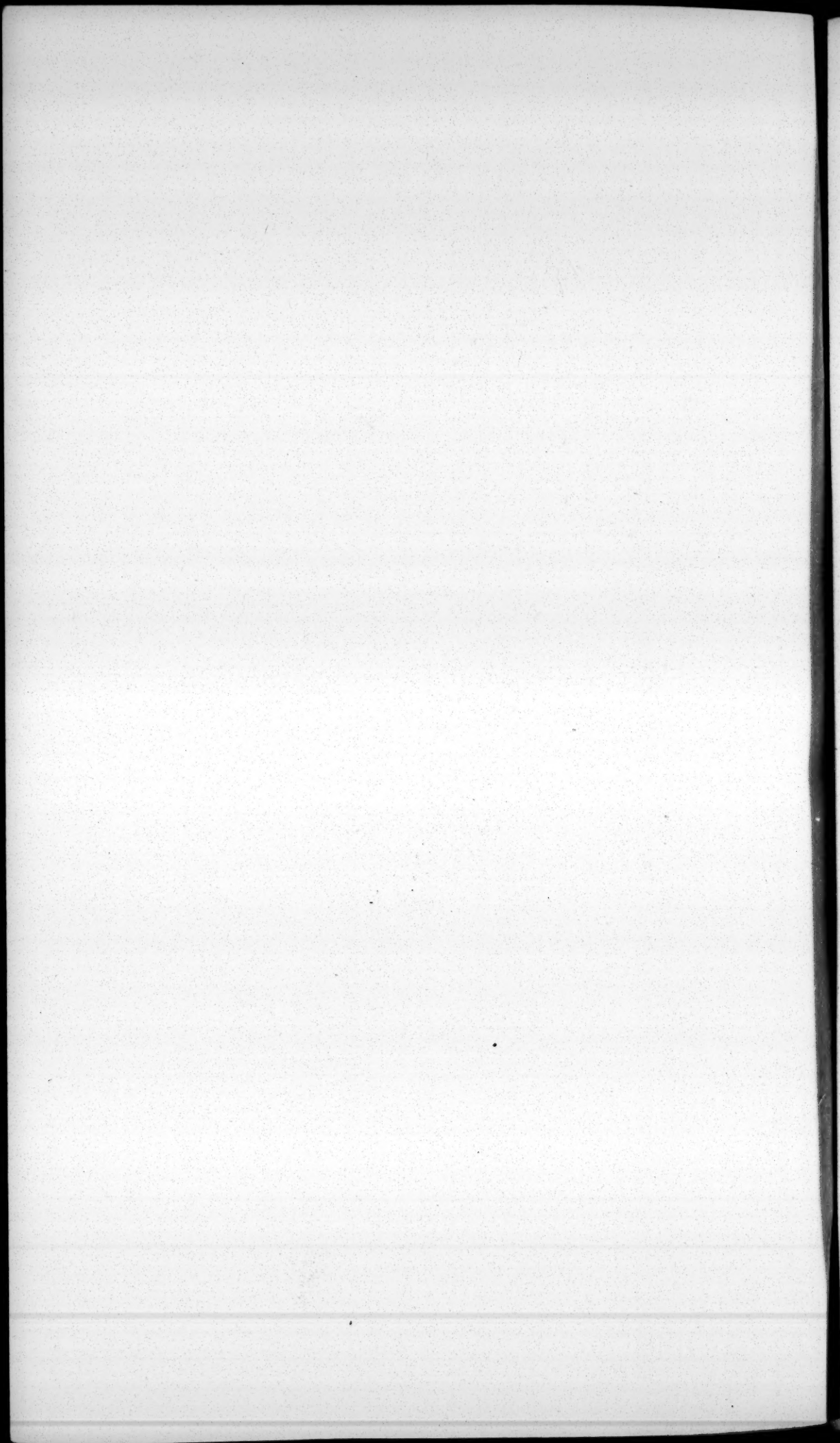
3 from Paris West Long.



Common Leag. of Gascony 16 to a Degree.

PART OF THE PROVINCES OF
BEARN, BIGORRE, COMMINGE,
COUSERANS, NEBOUZAN,
4 VALLEES, &c. &c.





LETTER II.

Tarbes, June 29.

TARBES, the capital of the province of Bigorre, is an open city widely spread in the center of a large plain: it has more the appearance of a great village than of an episcopal see. The waters of the Adour, which are conducted through it in various channels, procure signal conveniencies to the inhabitants, but render the air damp and chilly.

The cathedral is very ancient, and supposed to occupy the site of *Begora*, or *Castrum Begorrense*, whence the country derives its name; its bishop sat among the prelates of the council held at Agde in 506. The ruins of a castle fill part of the central division of the town, to which the other quarters were originally suburbs.

The general assembly of the states of Bigorre meets annually at Tarbes, whose prelate is their perpetual president; the other members are seven abbots or priors, two commanders of the order of Malthe, twelve barons, and twenty-eight deputies of towns*. Each branch of administration has its vote, and two out of the three suffice to carry a point. In these assemblies all public business is discussed, and all assessments made. In countries that enjoy the privilege of meeting annually, taxation and expenditure are generally managed in a manner less onerous to the subject, than in those provinces which, having been long the peculiar domain of the French monarch, or acquired by conquest, retain no traces of liberty, and are aban-

* This is the account I received in the country. The geographical descriptions of Bigorre compose the states of one bishop, four abbots, one commander, twelve barons, some gentlemen, and the deputies of the townships.

done to the merciless rule of financiers. The little freedom still apparent in Bigorre is the ghost of that constitution, which the ancient inhabitants maintained in full force against the efforts of several races of sovereigns, all of whom felt a desire of subverting it, but either failed in the attempt, or foresaw that their safety depended upon their compliance with the established regulations. The Bigorri were a people of Gaul, classed by the Romans among the nations of the third Aquitania. In the ninth century, a particular count or governor was first sent to preside over them, and in the common course of events, the power of these counts became hereditary. Towards the close of the fourteenth century, this province was united to the viscounty of Bearn ; it afterwards formed a part of the dominions of Navarre, and with that kingdom fell to the crown of France, by the accession of Henry the Fourth.

The people of Bigorre have a warm attachment to the place of their birth, and seldom fail to return to it with the money they have earned in various parts of the kingdom, in order to purchase a little land, and wind off the remnants of the clew of life, among the companions of their youth. Cookery is a favourite profession of theirs, but in every trade they become conspicuous by their industry. They are far from a comely race, and when advanced in years are troubled with wens on the throat; their stature is rather below what the English esteem the middle size; but they are muscular and active, and dance with uncommon spirit and precision. In summer they go barefoot, though the soil is full of stones, and only put on slippers when about to dance. Their clothes are always neat and in good condition, their circumstances being much easier than those of the French peasantry in other provinces; the women wear a red hood, that
fits

fits the head like a nun's veil, and falls down to the waist. In the district of Ossun the men still adhere to the mode of dress that prevailed in the reign of Henry the Fourth, and probably in times of much greater antiquity; a small round bonnet, a brown jacket and doublet laced down the seams with white, red cuffs, and trunk-hose, distinguish them from all their neighbours; they are principally employed as carriers, and have long enjoyed the reputation of unfulled honesty.

The provincial dialect of Bigorre is extremely uncouth to the ear of a stranger. Though I believe the wealthier inhabitants of Bigorre are neither possessed of more probity, nor lead more irreproachable lives than those of the northern parts of France, there appears to exist a greater fund of honour and honesty among the inferior ranks, at least as far as concerns pecuniary transactions among themselves: several customs and traits that have come to my knowledge confirm this opinion,

one of which I shall quote for its singularity. When a peasant A, the owner of a few sheep or cows, is distressed for ready money, either to complete a purchase of land; or for the immediate sustenance of his family, he applies to some richer neighbour B, and offers to sell him his stock *en gazaille*. If the proposal be accepted, the property is valued and the price paid down; but notwithstanding this transfer, the seller A retains possession, and pays B, by way of interest, half the profits upon the wool and young produced; the milk remains the perquisite of A. The buyer may at any time claim and drive away his cattle, which however A has in his option to repurchase; if he decline this offer, an estimate is made, and whatever the property may have gained is equally shared between them, as the loss, if any, falls equally upon both parties. If the *gazaille* die by any common disorder, is devoured by wild beasts, or dashed to pieces by a fall into a precipice,

A makes

A makes good the damage; but an epidemical distemper affects the interests of B exclusively. Touching in the hand constitutes the whole ceremony of the agreement, and such bargains are inviolably adhered to.

L E T T E R III.

Bagneres de Bigorre, July 28.

WE removed from Tarbes to drink the mineral waters, and spend the hot months among these mountains. The road hither is excellent, and passes through a rapid succession of grand, romantic, and pleasing prospects, where the uncommon richness of the soil is ably seconded by the intelligent industry of the cultivators. Near Tarbes the plain is so extensive that the range of hills on each side scarce engage the attention; a large portion of its flat surface is covered with

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with pollard cherry trees, serving as props to the vines, while Turkey wheat occupies the ground below. Not a spot of land is suffered to lie in unprofitable idleness, except where the Adour has desolated the plains with its irresistible torrents that rush down from the mountains on the melting of the snows. We gradually drew near the entrance of a valley, the hills, as it were, approached towards us, and each lofty summit became more distinctly marked; the way soon grew less level, and the face of the country was hidden by woods of tall oak; in the midst of these groves are numerous villages, delicious habitations in summer, for every cottage is shaded by a clump of trees, and every garden is refreshed by copious streams of limpid water; the ground rises gently towards hills neatly cultivated, and strewed with a beautiful variety of productions. At length the vale narrows to a point like the bottom of a net, and is intirely closed

closed up by the buildings of Bagneres ; an awful pile of mountains rudely thrown together, presses behind upon the green woody heights that overhang the town : the lowlands before it are covered with crops of divers sorts of grain, but chiefly abound in Turkey wheat : the method of managing it is to raise the seed in garden beds, then plant out the shoots in the fields, towards the end of May, in rows two feet distant from each other ; as soon as they have acquired strength sufficient, and the flowers appear, kidney beans are set at the foot of each plant ; henceforward it serves as a pole for the bean, which is gathered before the maize is fit to remove. In September, the fruit-bearing part of the plant being impregnated, the stalk that produced the pollen is cut away, and with all the leaves used as fodder for cattle ; the remainder is left till October, a bare stalk to ripen its seed. Millet is sown on the plots that have already yielded flax

or

or early corn ; it ripens in October, when the second crop of flax begins to appear above ground. Corn is reaped with sickles or scythes, and then spread very thin over the field ; in a few days it is carried home in carts, if a road can be made, or in crates on the heads of the women ; then as many hands as can be procured, are employed in threshing it out upon earthen floors, with light flails. In these vallies the husbandman tears out his stubbles by means of a triangular harrow armed with strong iron teeth turned forwards ; a thick oaken saplin bowed double serves him to press down the harrow, and to lift it up occasionally, to shake off the clods ; two oxen draw this machine, under the guidance of a girl, who walks on singing and knitting. This process drags away the weeds in this light soil, and prepares the ground for the plough. The operation of ploughing is performed very tenderly, for there is but a scanty covering of good earth
above

above a shivery stratum ; two oxen, cows, horses, and, not unfrequently, asses, are yoked together by means of a wooden bar, which keeps them at such a distance asunder, that they cannot trample on the rows of plants between which they move.

All the meadows, even on the declivities of the mountains, are watered by small cuts from the springs or rivers, and produce annually two crops of hay, the first extremely abundant : the fields in the plain admit of a third mowing in October.

Bagneres contains about three thousand inhabitants ; they subsist comfortably upon their paternal inheritances and the money they amass from the annual visits of strangers who resort hither to drink or bathe in its waters. It is surrounded with old walls, and is tolerably built, but the streets are narrow and crooked ; the quantity of water that runs through them renders the town cool and pleasant in summer, but in winter it

it is exceedingly cold on account of the vicinity of the mountains, and the heavy falls of snow, that remain several months upon the ground. It has no buildings of any note. The Adour is here a fierce torrent; its waters are white like those of all mountain streams proceeding from snows; they are diverted at several places from their natural course, and conveyed in channels across the plain, and through the town, where they are employed in numberless useful operations.

Bagnères derives its name from the mineral baths which were known and frequented by the ancient Romans, as many inscriptions and monuments still existing on the spot, satisfactorily demonstrate; the most explicit is to be seen in the square, dedicated to the nymphs of these salutiferous waters.

NYMPHISPROSALVTESVASEVERSERANVSLSM.

The peasants of the neighbourhood are a lively race, and often assemble in a shady walk near the gates to dance. One of the Queens of Navarre remitted all fines upon alienation of property at Bagneres, on condition that a small sum should be levied upon each person admitted to his freedom, and spent in bonfires and other merry expences at Midsummer.

The situation of this place is happily calculated for all exercises that tend to the recovery of health; it is built in a flat and upon a very dry soil; every part of it enjoys an easy communication with the fields, the banks of the river, or the high-roads, where the weaker sort of visitants may breathe the fresh air, and regain strength by moderate exertions; while the more vigorous, who repair to Bagneres for the sake of amusement, may climb delightful hills, and wander among shady groves through a never-ending variety of landscape. The
plain

plain and eminences are traversed by innumerable paths accessible to horsemen as well as foot-passengers; the high grounds are not like those in the Alps, broken and precipitous, but easily sloped, and clothed with soft and pleasant verdure. The timber that crowns their summits is of the noblest size. In the heart of cultivation, and near the foot of the mountains, the Spanish chestnut predominates intermingled with cherry, walnut, and other fruit trees, round which the vine entwines its tendrils. Higher up the extent of pasture becomes more considerable; the middle regions of the mountains are darkened with woods of beech overhung by forests of silver fir, and above all, black pinnacles of rocks shoot up to a frightful height, with here and there a wreath of snow preserved unmelted through the summer by the protection of their shade. That side of the mountains which faces the noontide sun is richly covered with wood,
but

but the opposite slope is seldom so beautiful, for it produces fewer trees and those of a stunted growth; the greatest part of these forests is the common property of the neighbouring villages, and as high as carriage can be easily contrived, is cut after a regular but careless manner, for the supply of fuel, and the purposes of husbandry.

L E T T E R IV.

I HAVE reserved the principal merit of Bagneres for the last part of my description, and shall devote this letter to its medicinal waters; they alone have rescued this valley from the obscurity which involves so many neighbouring beautiful districts; a great number of boiling, lukewarm, and cold streams, issue out of the sides of the mountain that covers the town on the western aspect;

aspect ; all of them possess, or are supposed to possess, very strong healing qualities, which each patient applies with great confidence to his particular disorder, under the directions of the physicians of the place. The summit of this mountain is indented with a large hollow, similar to the crater of a volcano, and I have no doubt but fire has been emitted from this cup at some period beyond the reach of history ; the fire which was then sufficient to produce explosions, and to cast forth torrents of lava, still retains the power, in its weaker state, of imparting virtue in various degrees to the mineral springs that flow from the mountain where its focus is established.*

The

* When I visited the Pyrenees, I had little acquaintance with volcanoes, their distinctive features and productions, therefore I can bring no proofs, but analogy, of their pristine existence near Bagnères ; the circular lakes on the mountains, the hot, sulphureous vapours

and

The number of wells and baths amounts to thirty ; some are covered in for the use of patients that can afford to pay for their cures. Others are open pools, where the poorer class gargle their ulcerous throats, or lave their fores, gratis. The heat of some spouts is at first almost insupportable, but gradually grows less painful. I have seen people expose their diseased limbs to the boiling stream for more than a quarter of an hour at a time. The hottest spring raises the quicksilver in Fahrenheit's thermometer to 123. degrees, while the coolest causes it to ascend no higher than 86. Out of the thirty different sources,

and waters, the caverns, basins, and forms of the ground, are the tokens, which, being impressed on my memory, convince me that volcanoes have in remote ages disturbed the face of that country. The knowledge requisite for discovering volcano traces in rocks, soils, and minerals, is almost unattainable without a visit to those regions where nature is actually employed in those tremendous operations.

two are exactly equal in heat to that of the human body, ten below, and eighteen above it. Their medicinal qualities differ no less essentially than their degrees of heat; for the waters of the Queen's bath are strongly purgative, those of Salut and Le Pré diuretic and cooling.

The bath of Salut is situated about a mile from the town, among the mountains; a pleasant winding road leads to it, through beautiful fields planted with clumps of chestnut trees. The houses and groves on the surrounding hills cheer the prospect; but in so hot a season, and in this latitude, an avenue would be a great improvement and relief to the patients. The spring is copious and equal to the demands of the crowds that flock round it on holidays, when every person may drink his fill for the value of three farthings English: the vogue is so great, that two guineas have been taken in one morning, at this low price. From the drinking

ing place the waters are conveyed into two marble troughs, which are in constant use during the whole season. Seniority of residence constitutes the right of bathing, and therefore many late comers, who foresee but a distant prospect of being accommodated with an hour of Salut, take up with the other baths of inferior reputation, but perhaps equal efficacy. The degree of heat of Salut is $88\frac{1}{2}$; when evaporated by a flow equal fire, the surface of its water is covered with a pellicle formed by small insipid chrystals, which towards the completion of the evaporation acquire considerable acritude. These waters contain no particles of iron, but small parallelopiped pyrites are frequently found in them, of a bright golden colour, and about an inch long.

L E T T E R V.

Bagnères, Aug. 15.

I Returned yesterday from a journey on horseback, through the most romantic and curious part of the Pyrenees, and hasten to impart my observations, while each idea is still impressed with force on *the tablet of my memory*.

I set out on the sixth with some friends, and travelled up the valley; the low grounds are finely cultivated; numberless streams pour across the road, and hurry to blend their waters with those of the Adour, which is here confined to a narrow bed; beyond it eastward, the mountains are covered with beautiful verdure; at their foot stands Asté, a village belonging to the family of Grammont. *

A peasant,

* In 1530 the Lord of the valley of Aure acquired the
viscounty

A peasant, who resides here, earns a livelihood by supplying the apothecaries with medicinal plants, which he gathers on the adjacent mountains, particularly that of Lieris, justly celebrated for the immense and variegated shew of flowers, that cover its elevated pastures, before sheep and cattle are let in to graze. The convent of capuchins, at Medous, opposite Asté, is placed so closely under a mountain, that in winter it enjoys but two hours sunshine in the whole day; its garden is remarkable for a large volume of water, that issues out of the rocks; trouts are often seen swimming down the stream, but if disturbed, they retire into the bowels of the mountain, to some subterraneous lake. The populousness of this vale is scarce cre-

viscounty of Asté by marriage, and his son married the heiress of Grammont, a family that bore a distinguished part in the troubles of Navarre, in the 15th century. Their descendants assumed the name and arms of Grammont.

dible : in the extent of three miles I reckoned near five hundred houses, or barns. The burgh of Campan gives name to the upper district, and is famous for the excellency of its butter ; it acknowledges no lord but the king, and has considerable woods and cultivated lands, appertaining to its community.

At a small distance above the town, we were conducted to a celebrated grotto, in the side of a bare mountain : the entrance is narrow and sloping, but at the depth of ten feet the floor of the cavern lies nearly on a level : the vault seldom exceeds nine feet in height ; its length is an hundred and four yards ; the path wet and rugged ; the walls and roof incrustated with chrysalizations ; but all that were curious for size, shape, or beauty of colour, had been broken off and carried away by preceding travellers. At the end of the grotto we found a marble slab, fixed up by order of the countess of Brionne, to commemorate,
that

that after infinite labour, she, with her family and servants, whose names are all consigned to immortality on this subterraneous monument, penetrated thus far into the bowels of the earth, in the year 1766.

Above Campan the valley grew more confined, the hills on the right hand studded with trees and barns, and covered with lively verdure; those on the left were rocky, barren, and savage. At the chapel of Saint Mary, two branches of the Adour flow from different glens and join their waters; we rode up the more western stream to Grip, where all level ground terminates. Noble groves of fir overhang the river, which dashes successively down three romantic falls. Having taken some refreshment, we proceeded up the mountain by a winding, steep, and rugged path, through a forest of silver and spruce firs; we occasionally caught views of the river foaming among the rocks and
trees,

trees, and in one spot darting over a vast precipice in a full, magnificent sheet.

Upon leaving the woods we crossed a large naked plain, at the foot of the Pic du midi, the highest mountain of the Pyrenees.* The Adour issues out of a pyramidical hill, a few miles farther up, and winds in a small stream through the rushy pastures. Abundance of flowers animate the face of this otherwise dull scene of nature. We were now arrived at the highest point of land we had to surmount, when we were surprised by a very heavy fall of snow, that whitened all the surrounding eminences, but soon melted into rain, and wetted us thoroughly. When the storm abated, and the atmosphere grew clear, a horrible view opened down the valley of Bareges : rude and barren mountains shade it on both sides, and the Bas-

* The Canigout in Roussillon is nearly as high above the sea.



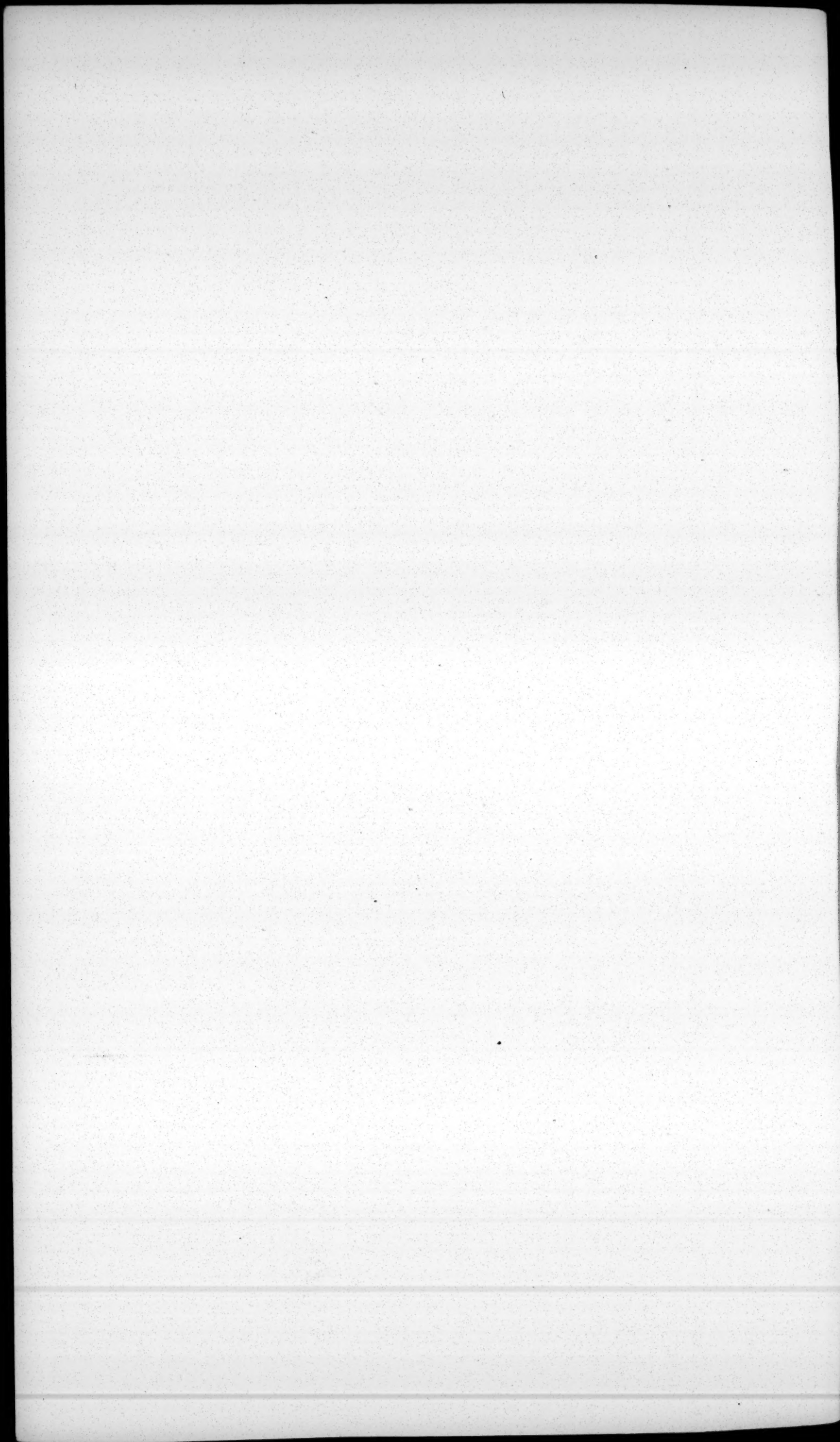
Am. Del.

BAI



BAREGES.

J. Taylor & Co.



ton, a foaming torrent, fills the intermediate hollow. We descended by the edge of the river, and entered one of the bleakest and most desolate places in nature ; where not a tree was to be seen, but the heights were seamed with yawning crevices, and the passages blocked up with quarries of stone, tumbled from the cliffs by the irresistible force of the waters. In this frightful chasm stands the village of Bareges, consisting of a single street built along the south side of the torrent. The situation is so dangerous and horrid, that the inhabitants dare not abide here in winter ; they remove all their furniture, even doors and windows, to such houses as are supposed most out of the way of mischief : a few invalid soldiers alone remain, to preserve the springs from being buried under the earth that slides down from the mountains. Sometimes a large volume of water bursts out of its side, the overplus of a lake on the summit,

mit, and sweeps off all before it: each year some houses are washed away by the floods, or crushed under the weight of snow. The *avelanches*, or heaps of snow that are detached from the mountains, are often so prodigious as to fill up the whole bottom of the glen; and the river has been known to roll for several weeks through an arch of its own forming under this immeasurable mass.

The mineral waters, for which Bareges is famed, issue out of the hill in the center of the village, and are distributed into three baths. They are very fetid, but clear in the glass; their degrees of heat rise from 89 to 112 $\frac{3}{4}$. They are greasy to the touch, tinge silver black, and are esteemed sovereign in the cure of ulcers, wounds, and scrophulous humours. The baths belong to the king, and are entirely under the direction of his surgeons. The poor have the use of a large bath covered with boards, and are fed by a tax of six livres imposed upon all new comers;

comers ; with this fund a comfortable dinner is provided for them, and distributed in presence of the governor, a worthy veteran, who solicited this command from a motive of gratitude, having been cured of a dangerous wound by bathing it with these waters. No company resorts hither merely for amusement ; disorders only, and those severe and inveterate ones, can induce people to inhabit these wild regions. There is an assembly-room and regular bath, when it is I know not whether a melancholy or a ludicrous sight, to behold several couples dancing together, some with a leg bound up, others with an arm in a sling, and all with a feeble body and a sickly aspect.

On the 8th we continued our journey by an excellent road with a rapid descent.— The landscape grew gayer every step; trees, villages, and cultivation gradually stole upon us as we travelled down the valley; it terminates in a small beautiful plain, in the front

of which the ruined castle of Saint Maria on a rocky brow presents a groupe of objects, such as Salvator Rosa delighted in delineating ; mountains of stupendous altitude environ it, and seem to prohibit all communication with the rest of the world ; many hamlets appear at once, half hidden by rich groves, some rising in the plain, others placed high up the mountains. We passed through Luz, a considerable town, and crossing the river Gave, into which the Baston empties itself, alighted at the baths of Saint Sauveur, a most romantic spot. Six large houses built on a rock overshaded with woods, contain the company. The Gave winds under the cliff, the mountain rises immediately behind, and on every side cascades are seen and heard dashing from precipice to precipice. The waters of these baths are not so hot as those of Bareges, but their taste is still more nauseous : great quantities of saponaceous scum are gathered in the cisterns and spouts.

There

There is a species of harmless serpent that delights in these waters, and frequently pays very unwelcome visits to the bathers.

L E T T E R VI.

Bagneres, August 21.

AS my last letter had long detained you among wild, mountainous scenes, a short pause was necessary to relieve your imagination, which might in some degree be sympathetically affected with the bodily fatigue we underwent in visiting them. I have therefore suffered a few days to elapse before I gave you the continuation of my rambles, that you might have leisure to familiarize yourself with this grand style of landscape ; here nature exhibits her boldest features ; here every object is extended upon a vast scale, and the whole assemblage impresses

impresses the spectator with awe as well as admiration. What is left to describe still exceeds the majesty of the views which have been the subject of my last letters: I wish it were possible for me to communicate, by means of words or paintings, the rapturous sensations excited in my mind by the sight of those sublime works of the Creator.

We left Saint Sauveur by sunrise, repassed the bridge of Luz, and struck into a road that leads up the river. As we advanced we found ourselves immured in a narrow valley, with the Gave roaring below us, between walls of immense rocks, and frequently hidden from our view by thick groves of lime and oak trees. The path was wide enough for our mountain horses, but very alarming to some unexperienced travellers in our company; on one hand a perpendicular rock, without any parapet, laid open the deep gloomy bed of the river almost

almost under our feet, and a shivery mountain pressed so close upon us on the other, as to leave no room for a retreat. The turns in the road, where torrents have heaped stones, and choaked the pass with rubbish, are particularly distressing; but our horses were so unconcerned, and surefooted, that they soon inspired their riders with equal indifference for the surrounding perils.

The whole valley is occupied by the river and the road, with vast piles of mountains rising on each side, and almost closing together; now and then level spots occur at the angles of the river. We crossed a bridge romantically clothed with ivy, which hid the tremendous chasm from our eyes: huge rocks rear up their perpendicular points, and torrents rush over them on all sides. The mountain ash, and service tree, blushing with clustered berries, bend over the precipices, and soften the harshness of the wild prospect. After this the valley rather swells out, and

more room is allowed for the indefatigable industry of the inhabitants to exert itself; but great part of the level, and all the lower regions of the mountains, are overgrown with wood, interspersed with a charming variety of flowering shrubs: many of the favourite denizens of our English gardens, flourish here in all their native luxuriance. This dale terminates at Gedres, a rambling village on the side of the mountain. The road is afterwards cut through the rock, and leads to a situation that gave us an idea of confusion, and desolation, the effects of some violent earthquake: the mountain is split and torn to pieces; its sides, and foot are strewn with innumerable huge blocks of stone, detached from the impending ridge that forms its bare summit; the passage through this rocky labyrinth opened to a magnificent amphitheatre; on the top waved thick forests of firs, through which several streams forcing their way, dashed down the lofty precipice

precipice, but almost vanished away in mist before they could reach the bottom. The field below was beautifully overspread with purple monkshood.

Our morning's expedition ended at Gabarnie, where we found good accommodations prepared for us by a messenger we had dispatched the preceding day. This is a village consisting of a church, and thirty houses, in the midst of bare hills, shaded by very high mountains, and traversed in several directions, by foaming torrents. The curate partook of our dinner, after we had removed the table to the door of the inn, for he durst neither eat, nor drink, within the walls of a public house. We found him a modest, conversable man, worthy of a richer settlement.

After dinner we travelled towards the head of the Gave, the object of our journey: we had long had in view the snow-capped cliffs from which its waters issue, but were surprised to find them still so distant from

us. We spent an hour and a half in riding across a bare tract of pasture, closed in with immense forests of evergreens on the French side, and along the Spanish frontier, which lies on the right hand, confined by bare rocky mountains: this plain is called the *Prade*; the river follows a serpentine course through it: in winter it is generally covered with snow forty feet deep. Not far from hence a silver mine was discovered some years ago, and worked by a company of adventurers; but the business was so injudiciously managed, and the conduct of the miners so flagitious, that the ministry thought proper to put a stop to the undertaking. All the heights towards the south-west, are debateable land between the French and Spaniards, and arbitrators have long been appointed to settle the limits; but as they have hitherto made but little progress, the claimants have been under the necessity of forming a temporary

porary

porary agreement to feed their flocks alternately upon the disputed grounds.

Our guide having now brought us to his *ne plus ultra*, pressed us earnestly to alight, as no horse had ever advanced beyond this pass : but as we were not contented with so distant a view, we rejected his timid advice, and clambering over several rocky eminences, plunged into the river, which by its limpidity deceived our eye, both as to the depth of the water, and the size of the rocks at the bottom. It required our utmost exertions to extricate our horses, and bear them safe through to the opposite bank. This difficulty being overcome, all others appeared contemptible, and we soon reached the center of a most stupendous amphitheatre ; three sides of it are formed by a range of perpendicular rocks ; the fourth is shaded with wood : above the upright wall, which is of a horrible height, rise several stages of broken masses, each covered with a layer of everlasting

lasting snow. The mountain eastward ends in sharp pinnacles, and runs off to the west in one immense bank of snow. From these congealed heaps the Gave derives its existence: thirteen streams rush down the mighty precipice, and unite their waters at its foot. The whole western corner of the area below is filled with a bed of snow, which being struck by few rays of the sun at any season, receives a sufficient volume of fresh snow every winter, to balance the loss occasioned by the warmth of the atmosphere in summer. Two of the torrents fell upon this extensive frozen surface; they have worn a huge chasm, and extending from it, a vaulted passage five hundred yards in length, through which their waters roll. We boldly rode over this extraordinary bridge, and alighting at the foot of the rocks, walked down the passage. The snow lies above it near twenty feet thick; the roof is about six feet above the ground, and finely turned in an arch, which
appears

appears as if it had been cut and chisselled by the hand of man. In some places there are columns and collateral galleries; the whole glittered like a diamond, and was beautifully pervaded by the light. The only inconvenience we felt, arose from the dripping occasioned by the extreme heat of the day, by which even this great body of snow was strongly affected. As we emerged with the river from this singular grotto, we unharboured three chamoy goats, that had taken refuge in the mouth of the cave, against the burning rays of noon: they darted across the plain, and ascended the steepest parts of the rocks, where we soon lost sight of them. These animals are called *Ysards* in this country; they are rather smaller than the fallow deer, of a muddy reddish yellow colour, with snubbed nose, and short black horns: in shape they resemble a deer, walking with their heads upright, and skipping away with admirable swiftness; but

they do not bound; they run when at full stretch: no beast of the forest is of more difficult access; they seldom quit the highest and most inaccessible parts of the mountains: during the wintry storms, they have been seen fixed on the brow of a precipice, with their faces towards the wind, probably to prevent the rain and snow from lodging under their hair. Notwithstanding their suspicious, wild nature, and their extreme velocity, the hardy mountaineers find means to destroy them: they lie out whole days and nights watching their opportunity, and making good use of it, when it offers, for they are excellent marksmen: they have frequently as much difficulty in reaching the dead prey, as in approaching it while living. The flesh of the *Ysard* is much esteemed; its skin makes soft and useful gloves.

The setting of the sun roused us from the ecstacy in which the contemplation of these awful scenes had enwrapped every sense, and
warned

warned us to retire, before the want of light should render those passes doubly dangerous, which we had found very difficult even in the glare of day. The sun sank behind the snowy cliffs in admirable beauty, tinging the mountains with a rich variety of fiery hues, which died away into the most tender tints of purple.

The mountains abound with game, the rivers with fish: here are no lords or manorial rights, and therefore game is the property of every member of the community that can catch it. Except some tracts of wood reserved for the use of the navy, all the forests are held in common.

L E T T E R VII.

ON our return, we passed through the plain of Luz into a defile along a magnificent road opened by Monsieur d'Itigny, the late intendant of this province. This pass between two mountains clothed from top to bottom with dark woods, was extremely narrow, and the Gave rolled below with horrible noise, amidst rocks and cataracts. The way along the side of the mountain was either hewn out of the live rock, or formed by shelving down whole quarries of slate and shiver; a parapet wall in the dangerous places diminished our apprehensions. At length the dell suddenly widened, the mountains retired on each hand, and our eyes were relieved, after so long confined a prospect, by the sight of the valley of Argillas, an oval plain of great extent, bounded in front by moderate elevations, beautifully planted and richly cultivated.

We

We then travelled up the course of another Gave, for three miles, to the mineral waters of Caunterets. This town stands in a wide vale, delightfully improved and planted: the surrounding mountains are thickly covered with wood;* the wells lie in the midst of a beautiful scene; two vast torrents pour over a ledge of rock, shaded by an evergreen forest; beautiful woody knolls rise behind, and mountains of great bulk seem to rest upon them as upon a basis: one of these hills is quite round, and an exact representation of the eminence at the bottom of Ulse water in Cumberland, called Dunmollin, which all persons acquainted with our delightful lakes, esteem a perfect model of rural beauty.

Early on the 10th we returned from Caunterets to the plain, and took the road to Lourdes: this ancient castle is a confused

* The hottest spring raises the quicksilver to 118; in the coolest it falls to 69.

pile of towers and walls rising in terraces, commanding the town and valley in a very grand manner, itself the noblest feature of the view: its strong ramparts, though no longer essential to the defence of the country, are preserved to confine delinquents of high rank.

From hence the journey down the Gave abounded with beautiful prospects: Lourdes long remained in sight, till hidden by towering rocks and hanging woods. We dined at Betharan, a place to which pilgrims resort, in great numbers, to pay their homage to an image of the Virgin Mary. The charms of its position, when known, would allure even an indevout traveller, delighting in rural elegance; for nature has taken unusual pains to deck it out with her most seductive ornaments: a deep winding river, woody heights, and a fertile plain, unite in a rich foreground, while different shades of receding mountains compose grand distances for the remainder
of

of the picture. We continued our ride many miles, through one of the finest countries I ever beheld : the number of villages is too great to reckon, yet the fruitfulness of the plain seems to demand even more husbandmen to gather in its productions. Corraffe lay near the road, an ancient venerable mansion, where Henry the Fourth was nursed. Nothing can be more pleasing than the approach to Pau, the capital of the principality of Béarn, and the residence of the kings of Navarre, after Ferdinand of Aragon had most unjustly wrested Upper Navarre from them.

Pau stands on the brow of a hill, overlooking the immense plains through which the Gave meanders ; its many streams join in one large body, before they pass under the arches of the bridge below : the southern horizon is bounded by a far lengthened chain of mountains, rising behind a range of well-wooded hills.

The

The royal castle built by king Henry of Albret, is situated on the happy point for enjoying the whole extent of this admirable prospect ; its terraces communicate with a shady park, full of noble timber : neither the outward architecture, nor the interior decoration of this palace, merit any notice ; nor do the apartments contain any curious tokens of their old inhabitants : the only relic preserved in it, is the shell of a tortoise, which the wardens assured us was the cradle of Henry the Fourth. The city consists chiefly of two long streets, but is destitute of ornamental edifices and public monuments ; the only one I saw, was a bad statue of Lewis the Fourteenth, which presses a pedestal destined, as tradition informs us, for the figure of his grandfather, the glory of the house of Bourbon, and the darling hero of this province. The Bearnois seem to have been conscious how shocking it must appear to find no memorial of so good a prince

prince in his own original patrimony, for the inscription says, "This is the grandson of our good king Henry."

The principality of Béarn is said by etymologists to have taken its name from the city of Bencharrica, once its capital, but now so completely destroyed, that nobody can ascertain where it stood. The Bearnois were in all ages men of an independent spirit, continually in arms to curb the growing power of their princes, and to maintain their native rights against encroachments. In the thirteenth century they insisted upon the sovereignty being elective, and though they did not succeed in that respect, they obtained a new body of magistrates, to be formed to control the authority of their prince. The ancient mode of government, though not the power, subsists in the states, which assemble annually to deliberate upon subsidies, and other concerns of the province: they are composed of the bishops of Lescar and

Oleron, of whom the first is president of the meeting; three abbots, twelve ancient barons, four barons of less antiquity, and five hundred and forty gentlemen, possessors of fiefs, constitute the first branch of the states; the second consists of deputies named by forty-two towns

Centulphus was the first sovereign of Béarn, and reigned in the tenth century: his posterity for many generations paid homage to the kings of Navarre, or Aragon. The house of Foix acquired Béarn, by marriage, about the end of the thirteenth century; but in the fifteenth, an heiress carried it into the family of Grailly, who assumed the name of Foix. In 1471, Gaston the Fourth procured the crown of Navarre for his descendants, by marrying Eleanor daughter of John king of Aragon. Their grandson dying without issue, Catherine his sister succeeded; her husband, John de Albret, was stripped of Upper Navarre by Ferdinand the Catholic.

Jane

Jane daughter to their son Henry, and wife of Anthony of Bourbon, was mother to Henry the Fourth, who ascended the throne of France upon the extinction of the house of Valois. This principality was not completely incorporated into the monarchy of France, till the reign of his son Lewis.

The exportation from this province is inconsiderable, though some of its wines are excellent, and proper for long voyages and foreign markets : those of Jurançon hold the first rank ; they are extremely strong and heady. Coarse linen is made in great quantities. The grain most used for the nourishment of the people is Turkey wheat : the plains abound with fruits, corn, and pulse ; every necessary of life is to be had at an easy rate, and of a good quality. In the mountains, milk and cheese supply the place of many articles that are only to be found in the low country. Almost every valley has its mineral springs, and mines of various

metals. The natives are an industrious, strong, shrewd, and lively race.

L E T T E R VIII.

A Ride of twenty-eight miles through rich vineyards and forest lands, brought us to the city of Oleron, which is situated upon the banks of two rivers, among beautiful hills. Its principal inhabitants are concerned in a lucrative commerce with the adjacent provinces of Spain, but it is not in so flourishing a condition as it was in the last century.

On the 12th, we left our inn before day-break, and in an hour's time entered the straits that shut in the valley of Aspe: this narrow glen is many miles in length, full of neat hamlets and cottages, and terminates in the large circular plain of Befouf, which is
enlivened

enlivened by the scattered buildings of several villages, and those belonging to the king's mast-yards. From hence the road to Spain has been made by gunpowder, through a huge rock that hangs over the river. Seven miles further we came to the foot of the *Mature d' Escout*. The mountains are here extremely lofty, rocky, and bare, except near their summits, which are covered with silver firs. For the purpose of felling and transporting such of these trees as are fit for masts, the king has caused a way to be cut in the flank of a frightful rocky mountain, that stretches out over the bed of a very precipitate torrent : it is rather a chain of water-falls than a stream. Every foot of the road has been gained by blasting ; in some places where crevices in the rock have interrupted the solid communication, bridges are laid, supported by huge beams driven into holes in the stone, and thus suspended over precipices, which the eye cannot measure without hor-

ror. The ample breadth scarce seems a security against the perils of this road, which is without comparison the most tremendous I ever ventured to climb. After a long fatiguing ascent, we were relieved by the levelness of a small plain at the head of the cataract, where the wood-hewers have built their huts. A large extent of wood has already been cleared, and the supply of masts in this forest is nearly exhausted. The trees, as soon as cut, are trimmed, and slung down with cables to a terrace near the foot of this upper range of the mountain. There each mast is fastened to ropes, and drawn by oxen down the road by which we ascended, to a tree of thirty-three inches diameter, the largest size this forest produces: twenty four pair of oxen are yoked behind, to keep back the weight, and prevent the mast from rolling or sliding down with too much precipitancy; yet the cattle are generally obliged to trot, sometimes very fast, so prodigious is the weight

weight and power acquired by the timber as it glides down. It requires great skill in the drivers to guide their oxen at each turn of the mountain, to prevent the point of the tree from striking the rocks.

The felling and conveying of these masts are performed by contract, at twenty-five sous per cubic foot; but the king is bound to make the roads to Atas; there the masts are thrown into ponds, and afterwards let down into the river Gave of Oleron, fastened together in rafts; bundles of poles and planks defend them against the shock of the rocky shores, and screens of wood are placed at every turn, to deaden the strokes they must sometimes give: eight men embark on board each float. It appears to me that the timber might be conveyed to the plain at an easier rate, were terraces contrived at different heights, to which the masts might be lowered by means of cables and capstans, as they are in the

first instance, instead of employing so many oxen in the removal of a single tree.

We returned by the valley of Aspe to Pau, and from thence to Bagnères, having made a tour of three hundred and twenty miles.

LETTER IX.

Bagnères, Sept. 2.

BEING desirous of visiting the Pic du Midy, I repaired early to Grip, at the head of this valley ; from hence I ascended to Tremesfaigues, a heap of hovels near the beautiful falls of the Adour, where I expected to meet with a guide, but not a man was to be seen ; all were out on the pastures, tending their flocks, or wandering in the forest, in quest of the Yfard. My resolution was not damped by this disappointment : I directed my steps towards a plain at the foot of the Pic. No bushes grow upon this extensive tract

tract of pasture; short grass and low heath are here the scanty covering of the earth: a small stream of excellent water issues from the bottom of the gigantic cone. Here I found a shepherd's boy, who engaged to guide me up the mountain. My servant and horses remained at the spring head, while I followed my conductor up a rugged bank, between huge walls of shaggy rocks, where the melted snow pours down in torrents, on the return of spring. Rough and laborious was the ascent, while the sun, unobscured by clouds, darted his rays perpendicularly on my head. By winding round to the south side of the mountain, we at length arrived at the summit of a narrow ridge, which runs into the main body of the Pic, as wings are joined to a mansion by a gallery of communication. Not a drop of water was to be met with near the path, but I supplied the deficiency in some degree, by frequently applying a lump of alum to

my tongue. I had now climbed up nearly one third of the whole height of the mountain, from the place where I had left my servant, and enjoyed here an awful prospect down a vast basin on the southern aspect, at the bottom of which lay a round lake: the water was of a bright green colour. Before me an immense heap of black rugged mountains rose in sublime confusion, one behind another, till the horizon was bounded by the snowy table of Gabarnie. Not a trace of man or his improvements was to be discerned; no tree, no paths, no animals; all dreary, silent, and savage. Here my guide refused to proceed, assuring me that neither he, nor any of his acquaintance, had ever ventured a step higher. When I found that neither bribery nor expostulation could remove his fears and prejudices, I engaged in the adventure alone, and began to climb the main body of the Pic; and now all my preceding toils appeared light, compared with the difficulties I had to encounter in this ascent,

ascent, which is scarce to be called a declivity, being so near a perpendicular line: it just affords slope enough for a coarse, slippery grass to strike root, and stop the shelving shiver from being washed down to the bottom. These tufts were my stepping places, without which it would have been impossible to proceed, for the soil slides away with a touch; but the blades of this grass are so sharp and stiff, that they penetrated my espartilles, or packthread shoes, and often gave me such pain, as to endanger my losing my hold, and rolling down.

After numberless pauses I reached a small puddle of water, formed by the melting of a neighbouring wreath of snow, the only one left on the mountain: my thirst was excessive, and I greedily swallowed large draughts of water, though it was hot, brackish, and nauseous. I soon after gained the summit of the Pic, an entire flat, oblong rock, about thirty feet diameter, inclining towards the south. From this pinnacle to the aforementioned

mentioned lake is one uninterrupted rapid slope: towards the northern and eastern aspects the rocks are perpendicular, and I believe, impervious to man, and beast. The Pic du Midy is a cone placed on the point of union of three inferior mountains, by which it is supported, as by a triangular pedestal.

I found that I had employed near three hours in the ascent: the height of the mountain was measured in the year 1740, by the Academicians, and determined by the barometer to be 1441 toises, equal to 9217 English feet, above the level of the sea. When I had rested my weary limbs, and recovered from the disagreeable sensations of excessive heat, by exposing myself to a gentle breeze that blew over the surface of this elevated rock, I strove to enjoy, as much as possible, the charms of the most extensive and superb view the imagination can conceive, or the eye admit. To the south, south-east, and south-west, a line of innumerable mountains faded away into clouds at each extremity, where I thought

thought, I could trace the outlines of both seas; but as the heat of the day had covered the very distant objects with a dim vapour, I may have been deceived, and only fancied I saw what I knew existed in those quarters. On the northern aspect lies a plain, confined only by the rotundity of the globe, and the inability of the eye to take in a greater proportion of its circumference: infinite was the variety of colours that enlivened its surface, among which none was so gay as the golden hue of the ripe corn. I followed the direction of the principal roads, traced the course of rivers from their head, and discerned each town and city, that lies upon their banks: Tarbes, Auch, and Pau were the most conspicuous; but had I been provided with a good spying glass, I am confident, I might have distinguished Toulouse, Montauban, and many other places equally distant. I could not perceive the least diminution in my freedom of respiration, nor any material difference in the degree of heat
I felt

I felt there, and that I had experienced in the plain below, except what was occasioned by the fine zephyr, which cooled the air, and rendered the downright beams less irksome. I lay an hour stretched thus above the world, then feeling myself restored to vigour, descended to the plain in the space of an hour and thirty-five minutes. Thrift, blue-bottle, and meum, were the only flowers I saw on the higher cone: the plain abounds with pinks and dwarf-iris.

L E T T E R X.

Bagneres, Sept. 17.

I Last week made an excursion to Bagneres de Luchon. At Sainte Marie, above Campan, we turned to the south-east, along a delightful valley, surrounded by green hills and woody mountains. We baited at the Pas de Sude, in a spacious plain in the center of
noble

noble forests of silver firs : the lower branches of these aged trees are thickly hung with long moss, as delicate as flax. Beyond this girdle of woods and mountains lies the valley of Aune, of which the principal town is Arreou, situated on the river Neste, and completely hemmed in by towering mountains. It was formerly resorted to by patients labouring under nervous and scrophulous complaints, which were frequently removed by the use of a cold mineral bath : but Margaret queen of Navarre caused it to be filled up and destroyed, out of resentment, as the popular tradition goes, because a favourite female attendant of hers, over whose conduct she had always watched with maternal solicitude, was debauched here, while the queen was in the bath, the first moment that she had lost sight of her. Had we arrived at Arreou a day sooner, we might have partaken of the diversion of a bear-hunt ; for that morning all the youths of the valley had assembled,

and

and killed a very large one, that did not yield till he had received eight shots in his body. The method of conducting this chase, is to trace the animal to his haunt by day-break; and as he never moves afterwards till night, the hunters have time to collect their numbers, and surround the covert: the line of circumvallation being perfected, the game is roused by the din of fifes, drums, kettles, shouts, and all manner of harsh and hideous noises: astonished and terrified with this horrid serenade, the bear rushes out of the wood, to seek some more peaceable retreat; but as soon as he issues from the thicket, the discharge of musketry commences: if missed, he runs upon the man that fired, but repeated shots call his attention to another and another object, till one ball better aimed than the rest, dispatches him. Bears seldom attempt to bite, but seek to annoy the enemy with their claws.

From Arreou we clambered over a dreary

mountain, and then followed the course of a rivulet down into the vale of Luchon.

Bagneres de Luchon is a small town, irregularly built, in the corner of a plain, which is about two miles in diameter: the prospect is extremely circumscribed, for the surrounding chain of mountains is of great height: snow lies all the year upon their peaks. A ruinous tower on a pointed rock, served formerly as a guard to the pass into Spain, which is a gloomy, narrow dell, a mere crevice in the mountainous line: were it not for this break, the boldest traveller would find it almost impracticable to pass this natural barrier of the two kingdoms.

The baths are at a small distance from the town, and near the springs which issue out of a rock: the hottest bubbles up in a hole not a yard wide, and its waters are as black as ink: the little pebbles at the bottom are incrustated with a silvery micaceous sediment. These fountains are three in number, varying materially in their degrees of heat, but all
foapy

soapy and fetid, strongly recommended in cutaneous cases. One of these wells is separated, by a plank placed edgewise, from a copious stream, which gushes out of the same cliff; but instead of being hot and sulphureous, is the coldest and purest water in the whole valley: their streams are suffered to unite soon after, to fill the tepid baths.

We returned from Bagneres de Luchon by the plains, pursuing the course of the river Aune, down a rich dale to the village of Cierp, where the higher ridge of mountains terminates towards the north. At this point a landscape presented itself, which may claim a very high degree of pre-eminence among the sublime scenes of nature: an amphitheatre of mountains, beautiful both in form and woody covering, close in the horizon on the southern aspect; a desolate castle, wildly seated on a rock, varies the outline of the lower hills; a second mighty chain of mountains on the east side is broken by
a chasm

a chasm lined with white cliffs, through which the Garonne issues majestically out of his native wilderness, to flow henceforward without impediment, through rich and boundless plains, and to transport their productions many hundred miles to the ocean. The river is even here of a noble breadth and depth, and carries barges of considerable burden. Towards the north the valley expands on each hand, cultivation and population increase, the mountains seem to draw back, and every thing announces a quick change from wild nature to the improvements of human industry.

Lower down, we passed in sight of Saint Bertrand, the capital city of the country of Comminges, situated on a round knoll, backed by woody mountains. The steepness of the hill, the serpentine course of the river, and the massy steeples of its cathedral, give it a striking resemblance to the city of Durham.

This town takes its name from St. Bertrand its bishop, who in 1100 built it near the ruins of Lion de Comminges, an ancient town destroyed in 585, by Gonran, king of Burgundy, for having received within its walls an impostor that pretended to be of the blood royal.

Our journey in the afternoon lay over immense heaths, clotted with oaks, to the ruins of Mauvesin, once a castle of strength, erected by the English, to overlook and defend the boundaries of their possessions. Near the foot of the eminence on which this commanding tower rises conspicuous on every side, stands the Cistercian Abbey of Escaldiou, embosomed in woods; three beautiful vallies meet at this point amidst rich meadows watered by the river Larros. The monks enjoy an income of fifty thousand livres a year; the commendatory abbot has about ten thousand. They are lords of seven villages and a vast tract of forest, but
derive

derive fewer advantages from their woodlands than might be expected, on account of the right each community has of cutting the timber and coppice necessary for its repairs and fuel: the woodmen in this country plant out thick oak, beech, and chefnut trees, about ten feet high and two inches in diameter, and first cut off the heads. These trees grow astonishingly strait, lofty, and sound, though exposed to violent storms of wind and heavy falls of snow. We soon after came to a place where nets were set to catch stock-doves, which come from the east about the time that the millet seed is ripe, and fly in large flocks after rainy, hazy weather. Incredible numbers are caught during the season, which is at the height in October.

The time of our departure from hence is fixed for the 22d instant. We shall quit this valley with regret, and long remember with gratitude the pleasant hours we have spent here.

'The pleasures of Bagneres bear little affinity to those which are usually to be met with at the mineral waters in England ; here are few assemblies, parties of dancing or cards, and few great entertainments ; the company divides itself into small sets, and most of the amusements are of a rural kind ; the accommodations are comfortable, and the necessities of life good and plentiful. The greatest inconvenience we have experienced, is the difficulty of getting remittances of money.

* Travellers must either bring with them the sum

* Since I left the South of France, the inconvenience here complained of, has been effectually removed by the judicious and extensive plan settled by Messieurs Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, for accommodating travellers with money, in all parts of Europe : Bagneres and Bareges are both comprized in their circle of correspondence. Any person, who from bad health or curiosity shall be induced to visit these remote provinces of France, may now procure from that house *circular exchange notes*, payable to his order for whatever sum he shall deposit in their

sum in cash which they expect to spend during their residence here, or have it sent by the carriers from their correspondents at Bourdeaux, or Toulouse, an operation attended with expence and delay.

LETTER XL

Toulouse, September 24, 1776.

WE left Bagneres at the appointed time, and travelled to Toulouse along the banks of the Garonne.

Toulouse is an ancient city, which, like all places that boast of remote antiquity, has its origin and early history obscured with fa-

their hands; he will receive the amount of those notes at any of the places mentioned in their list of correspondence, without commission or charges, and at the current *usance course of exchange on London*, at the time of payment.

bles. * The Romans decorated it with many noble structures, but no other vestiges of them are left, than the brick arches of a small amphitheatre. It stands in the center of an extensive plain, which yields large crops of corn and millet; vineyards are scarce in the environs, and the wine they give is of a low quality.

The

* The Volsci Telesages inhabited this part of Gaul at the time of the first Roman invasion in the 636th year of Rome. It continued to form a province of the Roman empire, till Honorius, finding himself hard pressed on every side by shoals of barbarians, endeavoured to save the main body of his dominions from destruction, by yielding a few distant members to some nations in preference to others, and thereby sowing dissention among them; with this view he, in 400, ceded the province of Narbonne to the Goths. In the eighth century they were subdued by the Saracens, who in their turn were driven back into Spain by Charles Martel, and his son Pepin. Charlemagne established earls at Toulouse, who soon after became sovereign princes; their posterity reigned

The circumference of the city is about four miles : its streets are roomy, and houses well constructed ; some of them are grand and spacious, but there is a gloominess in the colour of the brick with which they are built, and a want of motion in the streets, that casts a damp upon my spirits, and excites ideas of misery.

The manufactures of Toulouse are of reigned four hundred years ; but in 1208 Raymund the Sixth drew upon his head the vengeance of the Holy See, by assisting his subjects the heretics of Alby, against whom the Pope had published a Crusado. The chief of the holy confederacy was Simon de Montfort ; he defeated the earl, and as the reward of his valour, received the earldom from the hands of his fellow soldiers : Amaury de Montfort, his son, being too weak to preserve his father's conquests, sold them to the king of France, who forced Raymund the Seventh to sign a treaty, by which he abandoned all his possessions, except the diocese of Toulouse, and that also eventually on failure of his issue. By the death of his only daughter, the earldom fell to the crown of France, in consequence of the aforesaid agreement.

small importance, nor is its trade considerable. The genius of the citizens inclines more to letters than to commerce ; the law draws to it every person, that can amass wealth enough to purchase a seat on its benches: the church also swallows up a large portion of the inhabitants ; poverty and idleness seem the lot of the inferior class. Nothing contributes more to check the spirit of trade, than the temptation which the Capitoulat, or chief municipal magistracy, holds out to every wealthy merchant: this office imparts the rank and privileges of nobility, not only to the persons invested with the dignity, but also to their descendants, and is therefore the constant object of ambition to every thriving father of a family ; when once attained, the channel through which the wealth flowed, is shut for ever, and thus the plant is left to wither on its stalk, just at the moment when it began to acquire strength and juices sufficient

cient to ensure a succession of useful fruit. * Yet the Garonne presents powerful incitements to commercial industry, and Toulouse seems destined by its situation to serve as a staple town between the upper and lower provinces, that line its shores for many hundred miles.

The mills of the Basade, with their wears, are a grievous impediment to the navigation of the river; for goods must be unshipped and carried through the town, to be reim-barked above the falls, which occasions both expence and loss of time. The states of Languedoc have endeavoured to remedy this defect, without destroying the mills, which are essential to the purveyance of a city built in a plain, where windmills would remain useless half the year, from want of

* Some families of high rank and great illustration descend from Capitouls.

wind-

wind. A canal has been dug to open a communication between that part of the Garonne which lies above the Basade, and that which is below the dams, in order that loaded boats may pass up and down the whole course of the river without interruption ; but the indraught of the mill is so strong, that few bargemen will venture to steer for the upper mouth of the new cut, and therefore the success of the project remains problematical : a large marble basso relievo of genii, seas, and rivers, is, however, erected to commemorate the era of this junction. It is also proposed to continue the work till it joins the last basin of the royal canal of Languedoc, which will facilitate the conveyance of merchandize not intended for sale in Toulouse.

The bridge over the Garonne, which is here 820 feet wide, is the work of Francis Manfard ; the style of architecture is bold, but the holes which he has opened in each pier, to give an easier passage to the waters

in

in great floods, are disagreeable blots in the mafs.

The Touloufains are fo noted for devotion, that I was not furprised to fee their city crowded with churches, and half its extent occupied by convents ftocked with many coloured inhabitants; but fanctity has been more predominant than tafte for the fine arts; and although whole legions of faints are here deposited in golden shrines and marble tombs, fmall expence has been beftowed in procuring good pictures or ftatues to represent thefe patrons and protectors: it cannot here be faid that the coftlinefs of the materials is eclipsed by the excellence of the workmanfhip.

Befides a regular army of priefts, friars, and nuns, Touloufe has a fpiritual militia, animated with equal if not fuperior zeal for the intereft of the church: this corps confifts of a large number of laymen affociated under the denomination of penitents: kings, ftatefmen, and generals, have thought it an honour

honour to have their names enrolled on the list ; but times are altered, and I believe men of sober judgment, and just notions of religion, with these excrescencies of the ecclesiastical trunk were lopped off, rather than encouraged. Toulouse has long been distinguished for her unconditional submission to the dictates of the court of Rome, and has too often cemented the connection with the blood of human sacrifices. This was the birth-place of the Inquisition ; and in our days, the proceedings that attended the condemnation of John Calas prove that the seeds of the fanaticism, which produced that cruel tribunal, are not yet destroyed in this province. The true state of this melancholy event is still hidden behind clouds of doubts and conjectures, nor have I been able to procure any satisfactory lights on the subject. A sensible, uninterested spectator of the whole transaction assured me, that he had strong reasons for suspecting that

John

John Calas had, by some unlucky blow or push, been the innocent cause of his son's death: the expressions uniformly made use of by that unfortunate parent, agree with this surmise.

The vaults of the Cordeliers are famous for the dried corpses there deposited; but those preserved in the subterraneous galleries of Naples, and Syracuse, are less disfigured.

The church of the Carmelite nuns is neat; that of the Visitation elegant.

The eight Capitouls assemble in a spacious town-hall, said to be the gift of Clemence Isaure, a learned lady and encourager of the liberal arts, who is supposed to have flourished in the 14th century, and to have founded annual prizes for poetry: these rewards are still distributed by the academy of the Jeux Floraux, and consist in sprigs of gold and silver flowers. In the same building is a gallery of portraits of illustrious personages, natives of the province, but the

fame of several that I saw there seems to be confined within the limits of its territory. The chronicles of Toulouse, which are shewn here, have been regularly kept since the year 1285 ; they contain many singular traits of history, and are embellished with miniature representations of several public ceremonies; the entry of Lewis the Eleventh, while Dauphin, is one of the most curious : in order to obtain for his mother the distinction of a canopy, which the magistrates refused to grant her, he took her up behind him, and rode thus into the city, sharing with her all the honours paid to his own person.

Henry duke of Montmorency was beheaded in a court of this town-hall in the year 1632. He was a spirited, popular nobleman, and, as such, an obstacle to the designs of Cardinal Richelieu : by various artifices he was seduced into rebellion, defeated at Castelnaudary, taken prisoner, and brought hither to meet his fate.

LETTER XII.

Montpellier, October 8, 1776.

BETWEEN Toulouse and Carcassonne the country is disagreeably open, without wood or hedges ; the towns and villages are placed on hills ; the plains are arable, and through the middle of them runs the royal canal, which forms a communication between the Atlantic and the gulf of Lyons. It was executed under the direction of Paul Riquet, of Beziers, at the expence of eleven millions of livres, of which the king and the province bore equal shares. The first stone was laid in 1667 ; and the canal opened in 1681, but it took many years to complete it. The length from Toulouse to Beziers, where it joins the river Orbe, is 125435 French toises, equal to 152 English miles. The system of inland navigation has been so much improved

improved of late years, by the experiences and combinations made by some sublime geniuses in that line of mathematics, that I make no doubt but this canal would be shortened many leagues, were it to be undertaken afresh. It is full of angles and turns that do not appear necessary; and on the contrary, in one or two places has been driven strait at an enormous expence through numberless obstacles, when a short sweep would have conveyed the waters, with greater ease and œconomy, to the place of their destination. There are fifteen locks upon it in the fall towards the ocean, and forty-five on the side of the Mediterranean. The highest point between the two seas is at Naurouge, which is elevated one hundred toises above the level of each shore. The canal is carried over thirty-seven aqueducts, and crossed by eight bridges. To preserve a constant supply of water near the centre in dry seasons, a great basin is formed at St. Ferreol, which receives

ceives the produce of all the springs that rise in the black mountain.

The profits of this undertaking accrue from the conveyance of goods and passengers; the former pay by the league, the latter by the day. Three hundred and sixty boats navigate the canal, and perform annually six voyages: the proprietors of the works receive a thousand livres a voyage, which makes up a sum total of two millions one hundred and sixty thousand livres; the current expences and repairs amount to one million six hundred and ten thousand livres, and consequently there remain five hundred and fifty thousand net profit, for the dividends. This account may perhaps fall short of the truth, as there are always secrets in trading companies, which it is hard to dive into.

The diocese of Carcassonne, though far from a fertile country, is in a flourishing condition, and its inhabitants comparatively

rich; this good fortune is owing to the success of its cloth manufacture. The woollen trade has long been attended to in this place, but in the last age the Dutch found means to supplant the French in the Levant, by lowering the price of drapery; being themselves able, by means of a large capital, to bear the loss which this diminution occasioned, as long as any rivalry subsisted. The restoration of this beneficial branch of commerce appeared to the sagacious Colbert a task worthy of his comprehensive and persevering genius: he accordingly encouraged the attempts of several enterprising citizens, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing a constant and lucrative mart for French cloths opened in the Ottoman empire: the manufacturers of Carcassonne have been acquiring fresh vigour every year since his administration: the trade that other nations used to carry on with the Turks has sunk in the same proportion. Towards the close of
the

the last century, according to the information given by Mr. De Bafville in his memoir, drawn up for the duke of Burgundy, the sum brought into Carcaffonne in return for its exported woollens, amounted to nine millions and a half of livres. I am assured these looms now fend out annually cloths worth fourteen millions, and furnish the home trade with cloths to the amount of two millions more.

This city contains sixteen thousand souls ; it consists of two parts, divided by the river Aude ; the high town stands on a rock, furrounded with antique walls, and defended by a venerable old castle ; the low town is regularly built in a square form. This place had once fovereigns of its own : the last earl, having sided with the Albigenfes, was stripped of all his poffeffions, which were given to Montfort, and by that family transferred to the crown of France.

From hence to Narbonne we travelled through a bleak country, extremely unpleasant to the eye; the want of shade, and the strong reflection of the sun, render it intolerably hot in summer; during the winter months, it is exposed to severe cold and high winds. The soil in general is rocky, or a red gravel. The most northerly olive-trees in France grow here. We first descried the Mediterranean from the hills near Narbonne, which city stands in a low plain, exposed to inundations by its vicinity to several rivers that flow towards the salt lakes.

We entered this city through a gate built with the fragments of Roman altars, mutilated statues, inscriptions and trophies. The streets are narrow, and an air of poverty reigns throughout. The church alone seems to engross the wealth of the place; its archbishoprick is numbered among the richest benefices in the kingdom; the palace of the
prelate

prelate resembles the gloomy fortrefs of an ancient feudatory prince, rather than the refidence of a French archbifhop in thefe days of peace and elegance. Many fine remnants of Roman fculpture, and literature, are preferved in the courts, and there the Narbonefe may indulge their vanity in furmifes concerning the ancient magnificence of their city, whatever may be its appearance in its prefent reduced ftate. Narbonne became a Roman colony 115 years before Chrift, and gave its name to a large divifion of Gaul. The abode of proconfuls and prefects, the mafters of the world, or at leaft their deputies, was fure to receive every embellifhment, and mark of diftinction, which thofe proud inhabitants could beftow : the pleasures of Rome were undoubtedly tranfplanted hither, and fumptuous buildings raifed for the fake of enjoying them. The numerous fragments, that occur in every part of the town, attelt the

grandeur and taste of its ancient decorations ; but time, and the fury of barbarians, have left none of those edifices standing.

The cathedral is remarkable for the loftiness of its roof, but the style of architecture is heavy. In the choir is the mausoleum of Philip the Hardy, son of St. Lewis ; he died at Perpignan in 1285, while he was employed in despoiling his excommunicated relation, Peter of Aragon, of his dominions.

Narbonne was formerly governed by sovereign viscounts, but the kings of France acquired it in the 16th century. Its trade chiefly depends upon the exportation of its wheat, which is much esteemed for seed-corn, and, except olives, is the only important production of the diocese ; it is sent by a canal to the sea, where it is shipped for those provinces along the coast, that are deficient in that first necessary of life. The salt-pans on the lakes bring in a considerable revenue to the farmers of the revenue : the waste grounds
about

about Narbonne abound in aromatic plants, from which the bees extract a white and highly perfumed honey; its gentle laxative quality recommends it to the apothecaries in preference to other honey.

The fields in the low grounds are divided by rows of mulberry trees, and mounds overgrown with thickets of tamarisks; the plough used here consists merely of a slender handle, and a coulter, proportioned however to the lightness of the soil. Beyond this plain the country is mountainous, and dreary, as far as the banks of the Orbe.

We left the strait road to visit the Mal pas, a passage, where the canal of Languedoc is carried 147 yards through the heart of a mountain: the work is nobly executed; a bold lofty arch is thrown over the water, to prevent the materials of the excavated hill from falling, and a parapet is raised along the water edge for a towing path. While the workmen were opening this subterraneous

cut, they accidentally struck upon a channel made by the Romans, to drain a lake that once filled a vast hollow on the summit of the mountain. From the Mal pas to the surface of the river Orbe there is a fall of sixty-seven feet, which renders ten locks necessary for the raising or lowering the barges.

Beziers commands a grand extent of prospect, but the ground is too bare of wood. The climate of this city is much celebrated, as well as the fertility of its territory : Vaniere often sings the praises of this his native spot, in his *Prædium Rusticum*, a didactic poem, which appears cold and dull to foreign readers, but has many charms for those persons that are acquainted with this country, and qualified to judge of the truth, with which he has penned his descriptions. The roaring winds that blow for a long continuance at different seasons of the year, are no doubt conducive to the purity and salubrity

brity of the air, but their violence renders Beziers a very unpleasant place of abode while they last. The cathedral and the palace of the Bishop are admirably situated opposite to the finest part of the hills and a beautiful reach of the river.

The Romans, who perfectly understood the advantages of situation, sent a colony to Beziers; on the dismembering of their empire, it fell into the hands of the Goths; the Saracens dispossessed them, and fortified this post with great care. The obstinate resistance they made here against Charles Martel, incited that general to destroy the place after he had driven them out. Beziers rose from its ashes, and afterwards was governed by a race of independent sovereigns. In 1209 the viscount of Beziers joined his standard to that of the earl of Toulouse in support of the Albigenes; this drew upon him the resentment of the Crusaders, who took his capital by storm, and massacred its inhabitants

inhabitants in great numbers, without distinction of sex or age. The kings of France soon after became possessed of the territory.

This is far from a commercial town; nature is so bountiful to Beziers, and supplies it in such abundance with all the necessaries of life, that the inhabitants seldom feel any incitement to industry. 'Tis the sting of penury that rouses and inspires us with the daring spirit of mercantile enterprize. These people find enough at home to answer every purpose of their existence, and therefore neither trade nor manufactures are heard of among them. This is the account I received from various quarters, but were I to judge of the affluence of the citizens by their rueful countenances, and their ill-built, dirty streets, I should be tempted to write them down for the poorest set of men in the whole province. The diocese produces a great deal of oil, wine, silk, and corn,

After

After traversing a barren country some leagues in extent, we descended with great pleasure into the rich plains of Pezenas ; it is spacious, finely cultivated, and inclosed by hills dotted with single houses and villages. Pezenas is not remarkable for good buildings ; the number of its inhabitants is small. We soon exchanged the agreeable scenes of this delicious plain for rocky mountains, bleakly piled one upon another, and productive only of shrubs, which serve for fuel. Near Loupian we came down to the edge of a large lake that communicates with the sea ; the view here stretches across a noble bay ; the branches of the olive tree and the vine hang over the waves, while distant towns seem to float upon their bosom. The approach to Montpellier is uncommonly majestic.

L E T T E R XIII.

Montpellier, Nov. 1, 1776.

THE city of Montpellier covers a round knoll. Its walls are handsome and well preserved; they were built in 1208, by a son of James, the victorious king of Aragon, to whom this prince had given the kingdom of Majorca and the earldom of Montpellier as an appanage. The square walk, called le Peyrou, upon the brow of the hill, is one of the grandest in Europe; it is raised upon several terraces, and adorned with a statue of Lewis the Fourteenth, a triumphal arch erected to the memory of the same monarch, and a rotunda, in which scrupulous architects will find little to admire: it serves to receive the waters brought from afar, along a noble aqueduct of two ranges of arches, and is here mentioned with praise as the

part of a beautiful picture. Nothing we find among the ruins of Roman grandeur can have a more sublime effect, than this vast line of arcades striding over the hills and dales. The Peyrou commands a view of sea and land, that even draws the attention from its decorations; the lake of Magredonne is seen divided from the Mediterranean by a long isthmus, through the middle of which the royal canal is continued eastward from Agde; the boats upon it seem to be sailing in the open sea; villages are scattered along the edges of the lake, and the mountain of Cette towers beyond, like an island separated from the continent by a broad channel.

The walks and other embellishments give the exterior parts of this city the appearance of a metropolis, but nothing within corresponds with this idea; for the streets are narrow, crooked, and steep; the houses, though solidly built, are plain, and without
any

any striking ornaments of architecture. The number of inhabitants exceeds sixty thousand.

The states * of Languedoc assemble here every winter, and during the meeting Montpellier is a place of great gaiety; at other seasons the resort of foreigners gives it an air of life and activity, which is seldom to be met with, except in sea ports. Its climate has long been celebrated for wholesomeness, and incredible numbers of invalids have visited it in hopes of relief from their complaints, or at least of finding an atmosphere more congenial to their delicate

* The states are composed of three orders, the church, the nobility, and the commons; the first consists of three archbishops and twenty bishops; the second of one earl, one viscount, and twenty-one barons; the third of the deputies of dioceses, and magistrates of towns. Their business is to grant money to the king, to parcel out the contributions, to inspect the accounts of preceding years, and to watch over the privileges of the province.

frames;

frames; but I suspect its merits have been over-rated, for in autumn and winter the winds are continual and very sharp; at the same time the sky is clear, and the rays of the sun powerful; therefore in every place sheltered from the north wind, the degree of heat is considerable, and perspiration excited by very moderate exercise: the cutting blast, which is felt at every corner, cannot fail of producing pernicious consequences to a body thus suddenly exposed with all its pores open. In summer, the influence of the marshes must be felt; indeed the faces of the people that inhabit the low grounds along the coast, bear sad testimony to the pernicious qualities of their air and soil; their hue is a dismal green, and agues harass them half the year. I have not yet seen a woman in Montpellier with a fine set of teeth; their decay is by some observers attributed to the effluvia of quicksilver, of which incredible quantities
are

are employed by the furgeons; others lay the blame upon the vapours of verdigreafe; but I incline to think that the proximity of the marfhes is the principal, though not perhaps the fole caufe.

The college of phyfic has long enjoyed great renown, and boafts of having taught or enrolled among its members many of the greateft phyficians France has produced in the late and prefent centuries. Its privileges are extenfive, and fome of the moft honourable are faid to have been obtained by the favour of that wanton philofopher Rabelais, for which reafon his gown is put on every new fellow by way of inftalment. If the conftant concourfe of patients, and the beft opportunities for acquiring the knowledge of fimples, contribute to the increafe of fkill in a medical fociety, no fchool feems to have thefe helps in greater perfection than Montpellier; but of late years many fick perfons have applied to
other

other sources of health, and the consumptive English have been induced by fashion and the temptation of a milder climate, to breathe out their small remains of life on the warm shore of Nice.

Botany may be studied here with peculiar convenience, as the waste lands about the city afford samples of a greater number and variety of plants than can be found assembled in the same compass on any other soil in Europe. The king's botanical garden was first planned by Dulaurem, physician to Henry the IVth; it is well taken care of, and students are accommodated with every facility for acquiring the knowledge of vegetables. The gardener is wont to make an annual visit to the Pyrenean mountains, with a band of pupils, to examine the rare plants that grow in those elevated regions, and which are not produced in the plains and hills of Languedoc.

Perfumery, scented waters, and cordials

of various sorts are prepared here with great skill; false cochineal, and a medicinal conserve, is made with the kermes, or gall-nut of the holm oak; wax is blanched in considerable quantities; verdigrease * is the particular manufacture of this town; oil † and

* It is made by putting some quarts of wine in a large earthen jar; over the liquor are fixed cross sticks to bear a layer of raisins; over these is laid a thin plate of copper; this is repeated till the pot is filled; all air is then excluded for twelve days, by means of a thick straw cover. At the expiration of this term the copper plates are taken out, dried gradually in the shade, and then the verdigrease which has been produced upon them is scraped off.

† In December when the olives become black and shrivelled, they are beat down upon clean cloths, and carted to the mill, where they are thrown into a circular trough, in which a perpendicular stone turns. By the weight of this machine the fruit is crushed, and kneaded to a paste, then put into baskets of matting, with a hole at their top; these baskets are piled up under a press, and boiling water is poured upon them; the

and corn are sent out of its diocese in great quantities. It produces some excellent sorts of wine : fustians, and other cloths complete the list of its commodities.

LETTER XIV.

Montpellier, Nov. 3, 1776.

MONTPELLIER did not exist, when Charlemagne destroyed Maguelonne, a city built in the middle of the lakes, the retreat and bulwark of the Saracens. The bishop and his clergy had already taken refuge at Sustantion, a village about a mile from the hill, where Montpellier was gradually formed into a town, by the concurrence of people that preferred this lofty situation to the low country, both on ac-

the hot liquid brings out the oil, and carries it away with it into a tub, where the water sinks, and the oil is skimmed off with a ladle.

count of safety, and of health. From some holy virgins, who either directed their choice, or did actually reside upon the hill, the new settlement took the name of Mons Puellarum, the mountain of the maids. Maguelonne was, however, rebuilt in the twelfth century, but again finally abandoned in 1536, and the episcopal see fixed at Montpellier, which had belonged to the crown of France since the year 1340.

The people of Montpellier took an active part in the rebellions that disturbed the reign of Lewis the Thirteenth, and distinguished themselves by their attachment to the reformed religion. The king besieged them in person, and having forced them to surrender, erected a strong citadel, to curb their refractory spirit, and secure their obedience to his authority. This fortress has been improved according to the modern system of defence, and has often been of eminent service both to the monarch and
the

the subjects, in preserving internal peace, and keeping at a distance the calamities attendant upon civil discord, which desolated the other districts of the province.

The number of Hugonots is still great in this neighbourhood, notwithstanding the revocation of the edict of Nantes: persecution has not had the full effect that was expected, and the milder arts of toleration begin to be put in practice; perhaps indulgence, and the allurements of ambition, may imperceptibly undermine that well-cemented edifice, which has resisted so many open assaults and furious shocks from the hands of priests, and monarchs. Persecution is no converter, and mild treatment can alone weaken the impressions of education, and bring men to balance in their minds the weight of spiritual opinions against that of temporal advantages: when zeal abates, as it soon will, if no longer animated by persecution, indifference will quickly slide

into its place, and extinguish even the embers of that once outrageous fire. It is by these means that a long established sect is extirpated. The fable of the sun, wind, and traveller, is perfectly applicable in the present case, and I make no doubt but the French ministry have learned wisdom of their fabulists.

From the rapid progress made of late years by the spirit of toleration and humanity, it is to be presumed that the torch of fanaticism will never more be lighted up in our own country. It is time that the few remaining professors of the old religion of Britain should enjoy their obscure lot in peace, and as they contribute doubly to the support of the state, be no longer excluded from that protection which it affords to all other dissenters, Christian, or anti-christian. The animosities of ancient parties should die with the families and interests that gave them birth: the conduct
of

of the king's Roman Catholic subjects has been so long uniformly loyal and peaceable, their numbers are so small, and their impossibility of giving any disturbance to government, were they even willing, is so well acknowledged, that nothing seems better proved, than the propriety of knocking off the ignominious fetters with which they are still loaded; but in opposition to this act of humanity, it is asserted, that their principles and doctrines are hostile to civil and religious liberty. I shall not enter into an argument on religious liberty, because, it is certain, that the Roman Catholics will never have it in their power in Britain to force any man to go to mass, and therefore no danger can accrue from their sentiments in abstract matters of faith. But, surely, it is the height of absurdity to affirm that religion to be inimical to liberty, which is profest by some of the freest

people in Europe. There are cantons in Switzerland, republics in Italy, and individuals in Corfica and Poland, as tenacious of their freedom as the most stubborn Briton can be; yet, they believe in transubstantiation, make the sign of the cross, and acknowledge the pope to be the head of the church. Have we forgotten that we owe the inestimable blessings of juries to Alfred, who was submissively attached to the papal authority? How often did not our barons and commons rise in arms, and fight for public liberty, before they had learned even to doubt of his infallibility, and surely the men that drew up Magna Charta were papists. Let England remember, at least, that her Roman Catholics are neither intruders, nor innovators; but the descendants of her old inhabitants, of those who for ages fought her battles, and lavished their blood and fortunes in support of that
glory

glory and freedom, of which their posterity is forbid to partake.*

Several of my mornings were devoted to rambles over the adjacent country; a fine extent of heath and forest, affords ample room for the most eccentric wanderer, and the want of inclosures leaves almost every where free passage through the vineyards and olive-grounds. The great variety of plants, and the aromatic scents that rose under my footsteps, with the quick succession of land and sea prospects, shifting as I moved up each hillock, rendered me insensible to heat and fatigue. Near Perrol there are small pools of water, impregnated with a strong vitriolic taste, and kept in constant ebullition by the fixed air; they are used as baths. Near Saint George's

* These letters were written long before the 2d of June, 1780, but I cannot prevail upon myself to strike out this passage, though it looks like a satire upon my country.

I strayed

I strayed into a circular valley, exactly similar to the crater of a volcano, but instead of being covered with purple ashes, and strewn with horrid lumps of black lava, it was overgrown with arbutus, and other beautiful tall shrubs: pleasant paths have been formed through the thicket by the shepherds, who lead their flocks to brouze under this evergreen shade.

The mountain of St. Loup, and the ruins of the castle of Monferrand, seated on its most shaggy pinnacle, were the objects of another excursion. St. Loup is esteemed one of the most elevated points in the front row of the Cevennes, of which it commands a most extensive view. The lower region is woody and romantic, the upper rocky; but the light in which it claimed my attention was the probability, built upon its form, that a volcano had once existed at its summit; a deep circular hollow near a mile in diameter, the whole of it in tillage,

tillage, is shut up to the north by a very high ridge of rocks, which on the outside are so precipitate as to deny all access, but on the inside slope easily to the bottom of the crater. The wall or crust towards the south is much lower, and broken in one part; a breach that may be perceived in every extinct volcano, being the passage effectuated by the overboiling torrent of lava, through the weaker part of the shell. The river Lers bursts out of a cavern at the foot of this mountain, and immediately turns a mill. The water is as clear as chrystal, and its bottom entirely covered with grass, which the cattle dive for and pluck up by the roots.

LETTER XV.

Nîmes, Nov. 5, 1776.

LUND, the only place of note on the road to Nîmes, is renowned for the excellency of its muscadine wines.

Aiguemortes appears in the marshy plain to the right: the alterations occasioned by the lapse of ages in its harbour and neighbourhood, have furnished subject of meditation for many modern philosophers, who have striven to explain the natural history of our planet, and account systematically for all its wonderful changes and convulsions. Saint Lewis embarked at Aiguemortes, for his expedition against the Musselmens: the communication was then open from hence to the sea for large vessels; but the kings of France, having soon after got possession of Provence, where they were provided with more convenient ports than
this,

this, neglected Aiguesmortes so entirely, that its canals filled with sand, and its haven became a fedy pool: the number of its citizens decreased annually from sickness, or desertion; the few inhabitants, that still remain within its walls, are bribed to stay by the advantageous privileges which the town enjoys, and by the profits arising from the great salt-works of Peuais. The last event that figures in the annals of Aiguesmortes, is the landing of the emperor Charles the Fifth, in the year 1539, and his magnificent reception by his generous rival Francis the First.

Nîmes is a large city, built within a semi-circular range of rocky hills: violent north-east winds blow for many weeks after the equinox, without intermission, and dispel the unwholesome vapours, which have been collected in this confined atmosphere during the summer: all is open to the south, as far as the Mediterranean, which is thought by
some

some philosophers to have washed the foot of the rocks of Nîmes in ancient times ; but this retreat of the waters must have taken place long before the Romans had extended their conquests to Gaul, as is evident from the observations of Pliny : that sagacious people would undoubtedly have availed themselves of such an advantage as a harbour, had there existed one at or near a place which they treated with distinguished marks of predilection. A colony was settled here by Marcus Agrippa, the son-in-law of Augustus* : succeeding emperors took a delight in embellishing Nîmes with both sacred and civil edifices ; no place on our side of the Alps retains so many, or such perfect monuments

* As the coin struck in this colony exhibits a crocodile tied to a palm-tree, and the heads of Caius and Lucius Cæsar, sons of Agrippa, it is probable that the veterans who formed this settlement, were drawn from legions that had served in Egypt and Syria, under the command of Agrippa, or his sons.

of ancient taste and magnificence, besides innumerable fragments, which have been made use of in building walls and gates in ages of barbarism.

The amphitheatre is one of the best preserved works of the kind now extant; its form is, as usual, elliptical: * on the outside are two orders, Tuscan and Doric, each of sixty arcades, divided in the first gallery by pilasters, in the second by columns; above all is a battlement or parapet, that either

* The longest diameter of the area measures four hundred and sixteen French feet, the shortest three hundred and eighteen.

The substructions that support the seats and galleries are eighty-seven feet thick, so that the whole diameter of the amphitheatre is one way five hundred and ninety, and the other four hundred and ninety feet.

I have followed the measurement of Monsieur Clerisseau, given with the plans and elevations of the monuments of Nimes, because he is an architect, and either took the measures himself, or copied them from the papers of the late Comte de Caylus. They do not thoroughly agree with those marked in other books.

formed

formed the pedestal of a third order, or crowned the second; perhaps the building was never raised higher, for there appear at this height, which is sixty-eight feet from the ground, projecting stones, bored through to receive the poles from which the awning was suspended over the spectators. Four gates gave admittance into the area, which is at present crowded with houses. I was told that upwards of three thousand persons dwell within * its walls, most of them manufacturers, and professing the reformed religion. Above the houses, the seats and vomitoria are still entire, as are also the masks and basso-relievos that adorned the keystones of the arches. The amphitheatre has suffered less from the wear of time than from fire, for Charles Martel is reported to

* The king has lately (1786) issued an edict for destroying these hovels, clearing out the area, and putting this noble edifice into proper repair.

have filled it with faggots, which he caused to be lighted, in hopes of destroying this solid building, which being turned into a fortress by the Saracens, had long resisted his assaults, and cost him numbers of his bravest soldiers ; but the blocks of stone were so massive, and the work so firmly put together, that the flames had scarce any effect upon it, except blackening the surface.

The temple, usually ascribed to the worship of Diana, subsists with half its stone roof yet remaining. It is of the composite order, but in a heavy style of architecture : the situation is picturesque, on the brink of a large spring issuing out of the rock into a semi-circular basin fifty feet deep ; the waters are conveyed from hence through a public garden, in various channels, adorned with balustrades, vases, and statues : this labyrinth of streams is said to be laid down as nearly as possible upon the ancient Roman plan. Numberless fragments of ornamental archi-

ecture have been found in cleaning the old canals, and copies of them employed in decorating the modern parapets. The stylobate, which probably served as a common pedestal to a line of columns, has been imitated, and is much admired for the elegance of its running pattern.

On the summit of the craggy hill, that overhangs the city, stands the Tour Magne, a pyramidical tower of several stories, to each of which a winding stair-case afforded access. The building contains below one large vaulted room of an irregular shape, with a conical roof; above it are six small cells, round at the bottom like a kettle, with apertures only at top, and not communicating with each other. Antiquaries differ as to the use made of this tower, while some call it a public treasury, others a granary, a third pronounces it to have been a light-house, and others a mausoleum. The view from hence is delightful, comprehending the whole city,
its

its almost boundless plains, the sea, the mountains of Dauphiné, and the still more distant heights of Provence.

L E T T E R XVI.

THE glory of Nîmes is the Maison Quadrée, a barbarous appellation for one of the most perfect samples of an ancient temple, that the fury of barbarous conquerors, or still more savage zealots, has spared. It is a temple of the Corinthian order, with six columns in each front, and nine on the flanks, the whole raised upon a basement story, five feet six inches from the ground. The columns on the sides, and those in the south front, adhere to the wall; those in the north front form a pro-naos or portico, extending under the roof as far back as the fourth column; here is the entrance of the temple, ornamented with pilasters;

lafters; the door was formerly the only opening through which light was admitted, but windows have fince been broken in the fide walls. * The exact meafures are given below for the fatisfaction of artifts: for thofe perfons who are not converfant in the rules of architecture, it will fuffice to fay that the elegance of proportion, the exquisite tafte

		French feet.	in.
* Length of the whole bafement ftory		108	
Breadth of ditto	_____	34	3
Length of the temple and portico		81	6
Breadth of ditto	_____	42	6
Outfide length of the temple, with the portico		53	6
Outfide breadth of ditto	_____	37	9
Infide length of ditto	_____	48	10
Infide breadth of ditto	_____	32	6
Thicknefs of the walls	2 10	Breadth of the door	10 2
Diameter of the columns	_____ 2 8	Intercolumniations of the front	{ 5 4 4 9 4 10
Diameter of their bafe	4 0	Height of the bafement and fteps	5 6
Intercolumniation of the fides	_____ 5 0	Height of architrave	2 3
Height of columns--bafes	2 6	Ditto of frize	1 9
ftafts	23 0	Ditto of cornice	2 3
capital	3 2		
Height of pediment	14 9		

displayed

displayed in every ornament, the lightness of the whole building, and the harmony with which all the parts are connected, stand unrivalled by any work of the most refined art north of the Alps; but I do not think it is entitled to rank before every edifice that still perpetuates the glory of ancient architects in Italy, Greece, and Asia. It is apparent from the holes by which the brazen letters were fastened to the stone, that there was once an inscription on the frieze, torn down for the sake of the metal. The words of this inscription had remained a mystery, never satisfactorily explained by any antiquary, when Monsieur Seguier, of this city, thought of tracing the form of the letters by means of the relation which the holes bear to each other: the following lines were the result of this ingenious process.

C.C.A.E.S.A.R.I.A.V.G.V.S.T.I.F.C.O.S.L.C.A.E.S.A.

R.I.A.V.G.V.S.T.I.F.C.O.S.D.E.S.I.G.N.A.T.O.

P.R.I.N.C.I.P.V.S.I.V.V.E.N.T.V.T.I.S,

From this discovery he drew an inference that the temple was erected in the reign of Augustus, and was not a monument raised by Adrian to the memory of Plotina, as most preceding antiquaries had believed it to be. Being convinced of the truth of his hypothesis, he supported it by the following arguments: the Pantheon built by Agrippa shews us that every thing beautiful in architecture was to be expected from the genius of the artists of that age, and the magnificence of the great men that employed them: the Maison Quarrée is a most admirable piece of structure, and therefore may with strict propriety be assigned to that æra: the names both of Agrippa and of his sons were probably held in high veneration by a colony to whose settlement and prosperity that general had contributed so essentially; nor could the Nemausenses pay their court more effectually to the emperor, than by honouring as divinities those youths whom

whom he looked upon as the pillars of his imperial house ; but from the total change of interests and affections in the succeeding reigns, it would have been the height of imprudence afterwards to have paid this homage to Caius and Lucius Cæsar ; and for that reason, the inscription being explained as above, the temple could not be dedicated later than the time of Augustus.

These are plausible arguments, but in my opinion, there are others to be deduced from internal evidence, that completely overthrow them. By the comparison which I draw between this building and the undoubted monuments of the Augustan age, I am fully persuaded that they are not coeval, but that the space of, at least, a century intervened between the different epochs of their erection. In the *Maison Quarrée* I perceive a profusion and minuteness of ornaments not to be found in the more simple architecture of the Augustan times ;

there is also a great variation in the proportions. The explanation of the dedicatory inscription given by Monsieur Seguiér, would have had more weight with me, had I not seen clearly that the disposition of the holes was not always uniform upon a repetition of the same letter; and that there were also several supernumerary ones, of which he made no use in placing his letters: he accounted for this redundancy by supposing them to be what painters call *pentimenti*, or mistakes which the workmen afterwards rectify by cutting others.

The inside of this elegant structure has been repaired in a bad taste, in order to accommodate it to the purposes of the Christian worship: the Augustinian friars are the present possessors; and this adoption has preserved so valuable a relic of antiquity from the ruin which has overwhelmed so many magnificent edifices.

Monsieur

Monſieur Seguier embraces almoſt every branch of the polite arts as well as of natural hiſtory, and by his extenſive acquirements in ſcience, comes near the idea of univerſal knowledge; with theſe merits he unites the moſt unaffected politeneſs and pleaſing communicativenefs. We experienced this amiable diſpoſition during a long ſtay in his Muſæum, which contains many fine aſſortments in natural hiſtory: the moſt complete and ſingular, is a collection of plants and fiſhes impreſſed upon a black, ſlaty, foſſile ſubſtance,

L E T T E R XVII.

WHILE the Roman government retained its vigour, Nimes continued to flouriſh as one of its moſt favoured tranſalpine ſettlements: the Antonines, whoſe family is ſuppoſed to have belonged
to

to this colony, patronized it in a distinguished manner; but when Rome sank beneath the weight of those torrents of barbarians that poured upon her from the forests of the North, Nimes was one of the first cities that felt the fatal effects of her debility; its riches allured each rapacious invader, and repeated devastations soon laid its glories in the dust. Nimes had suffered so much when the Visigoths obtained possession of this part of Gaul, that they gave the preference to Toulouse for the residence of their monarchs: they converted Nimes into a frontier garrison, built towers upon the amphitheatre, and, overturning most other monuments of elegant taste, employed their fragments as materials of defence, without paying the least attention to their beauty. The amphitheatre thus metamorphosed stood several sieges, each of which contributed something towards disfiguring it. Under the
Car-

Carlovingian kings, viscounts were appointed to keep the country in due subjection, but they soon took advantage of the decline of that royal house, to assume independence: from them the sovereignty of Nîmes passed to the earls of Toulouse, and followed the fate of their other dominions.

The reform of Calvin was early introduced into this city, where it struck deep and vigorous root; the Hugonots lived here in a manner independent of the regal authority, till Cardinal de Richelieu subdued them. A very large proportion of the Nîmois, and of their immediate neighbours, still profess the protestant religion; to which they and their forefathers have adhered upwards of two hundred years with unremitting zeal, in spite of all the efforts of priests and monarchs. In the general wars of religion, they bore an active part, and also frequently rose up against government, when the rest of France was in profound peace.

The

The troubles of the Cevennes in the beginning of this century filled this part of Languedoc with bloodshed and desolation. The protestants, whose imaginations were exalted to a degree of frenzy by the preaching of their prophets, and the sense of their own distressful situation, made no scruple of exercising the most shocking barbarities upon their enemies and persecutors: on the other hand, the king's officers and soldiers retaliated these outrages, not only upon the hugonots taken in arms, but also upon the whole body of peaceable inhabitants professing that doctrine. A dispassionate reader of such narratives is apt to accuse the historians of each party of monstrous exaggeration, humanely thinking that savage beasts alone are capable of perpetrating such deeds of blood.

But the crimes of that war lose their blackness, if compared with the cruelties of the *Michelade* in 1567, when the Calvinists suddenly

denly took up arms at Nimes, and made a general massacre of the catholics. This atrocious fact has been alleged in alleviation of the *Saint Barthelemi*, which happened five years afterwards ; but there can be no just parallel drawn between the sudden though outrageous fanaticism that seized the Nimois, and led them to cut the throats and destroy the property of their fellow citizens, and the cool, premeditated plan of Charles the Ninth, founded upon the basest treachery and hypocrisy, under the sanction of oaths and sacraments.

After the revolt of the Cevennes was quelled in 1705, this province was suffered to enjoy some repose, but protestant conventicles and preachers obtained no further degree of toleration : marriages contracted between protestants continued to be deemed illegal and invalid ; their meetings, though held in the most retired parts of the country, were disturbed by attacks from the civil and
military

military power, and many of their ministers yearly hurried to the galleys. Of late years a greater latitude of indulgence has been given; the troops affect to mistake the place of rendezvous, or previous notice is sent to the assembly. The benevolent spirit of Lewis the Sixteenth will probably incline him to pass some law, by which their marriages may be rendered legal, and the birth-rights of citizens be extended to their offspring.

The diocese of Nîmes is extremely fertile in corn, wine, oil, and other valuable productions. The inhabitants of the episcopal city, in number above forty thousand, apply with great industry to commerce, especially that of silk: their manufactures would flourish still more, could they be freed from numberless duties and oppressive monopolies, which at present harass the trader, and check the spirit of enterprize. Catherine of Medicis is said to have introduced silk-worms into
France;

France; but the first establishment of a silk manufacture appears to date no higher than the reign of Henry the Fourth, or his son Lewis the Thirteenth.

L E T T E R XVIII.

Nimes.

WE are just returned from an excursion to Arles, where the beauties of situation, and numerous remains of antiquity, made us ample amends for our fatigues. We travelled part of the way in a rich plain, where a great number of fowlers were stationed, turning small mirrors in order to dazzle the larks, and draw them down within reach of their guns. A range of gravelly hills then intervened between this flat country and the boundless levels that line the course of the Rhone. We ferried over a branch of this river into the island of the
Camargue,

Camargue,* and then passed by a bridge of boats into Arles, which rises nobly from the water edge up a gentle acclivity. Its circumference is not great, nor the present population numerous; the appearance it now makes is widely different from what it was, when Constantine the Great, and after him his sons honoured it with their presence. Then theatres, palaces, and amphitheatres were raised on every side, to receive and entertain these mighty guests, and Arles became the center of government, the rival of Marseilles in the trade of Italy: thither the inhabitants of the northern districts came to purchase the gaudy superfluities of luxury, and from thence carried back into their forests, new wants and the vices of more refined nations. The urbanity which a splendid

* The Camargue is an island eighteen miles in length, formed by two branches of the Rhone. It is extremely fertile, and feeds an incredible number of horses and cattle which are almost wild. The horses are active and hardy, but unruly and ugly.

court is wont to diffuse around the place of its residence, polished the manners of the Arelatians to a superior degree above the citizens of other towns ; and if I may credit the report of travellers, who have remained there long enough to form acquaintances, this softness of manners, and ease of behaviour, are still perceptible in the societies of its nobility ; holding a pleasing medium betwixt the formality of the long robe, that leads the fashion at Aix, and the familiarity, which at Marseilles is acquired by habits of traffick.

The glory of Arles faded with that of Rome ; and from the day that Honorius submitted to the dictates of the barbarian powers, this city became involved in continual disquietudes and distresses ; besieged, plundered, depopulated, by every passing swarm of conquerors, it fell to ruin, commerce fled from its deserted wharfs to seek prosperity in other ports ; the canals that were wont to bestow fertility upon its sun-

burnt plains, and to convey their rich productions to a ready sale, were left without repairs or support, and soon choaked up with sand, forming heads to numberless torpid pools, the nests of infection and disease.*

Arles thus abandoned to misery, languished many centuries, but even at its most disastrous period, while its ruined edifices were yet reeking with the fire which the Saracens had kindled, Boson, the brother-in-law of Charles the Bald, chose it for the capital of a kingdom which he had erected out of many usurped provinces. After passing through two families, this title devolved upon the imperial house of Swabia, a great but unfortunate race of princes, that failed in the year 1268. Long before this epocha their

* Since the French monarchs have possessed Provence, these evils have been in some measure remedied; but there are yet many parts of the environs of Arles that are exceedingly feverish and unwholesome in summer.

power in Provence had been reduced to an empty name; for on one hand the earls of Provence had usurped whatever territory lay convenient for them; and on the other, several of the most powerful cities had, in imitation of those of Lombardy, cast off the yoke, and formed themselves into republics. The people of Arles asserted their independence about the year 1220, and chose annual podestats to govern them.—At the end of thirty years this infant and ill-established commonwealth was obliged to submit to the authority of Charles, the first earl of Provence, of the house of Anjou, too formidable an antagonist to be resisted with any reasonable hopes of success. The kings of France succeeded in later times to the rights of the earls of Provence; and the emperor Charles the Fourth made over to his nephew Charles the Fifth, king of France, all the claims he might have upon Arles and its territory.

The streets of this city are narrow, but the houses in general are well built; it abounds in rich clergy and poor nobility: trade seems at a low ebb.

In the same square with the cathedral and the archiepiscopal palace, stands the town-hall, a shewy insulated building; its staircase is ornamented with pieces of antique sculpture and the cast of a female figure, which was dug up here in the last century, and furnished matter for many dissertations, tending to ascertain the divinity it was meant to represent; the statue was sent to Versailles, where Girardon the sculptor made a Venus of it. A votive altar inscribed to the Bona Dea by her priestesses, is remarkable for an oaken crown, that surrounds the inscription, and two human ears with ear-rings. The apartments are noble; in one is a fine portrait of Cardinal de Richelieu.

Many inscriptions are also preserved at the archbishop's, and before his gate stand a
mutilated

mutilated column, and an Egyptian obelisk of grey granite, without hieroglyphics; it is forty-seven French feet high, on a base raised seven feet from the ground, and is supposed to have been brought from Egypt about the year 354, when Constantius celebrated the Circensian games at Arles with great magnificence. It lay buried in rubbish many ages, till a reviving taste for the arts brought it out of its obscurity in the sixteenth century, but it was not raised till the year 1676, when it was placed upon a pedestal with great ceremony, and loaded with a most flattering inscription in honour of the king.

In the herb-market two pillars, the remains of a portico, yet support the angle stones of a Corinthian frieze much broken; by the help of holes cut upon it, Monsieur Seguier has discovered that the building was erected in the time of the first Christian emperor. The only remnants of the theatre

are two composite columns belonging to the side of the stage.

The amphitheatre is of a smaller dimension than that of Nîmes, but, like it, is disfigured by the miserable dwellings of the poor: it never was finished, the work having probably been interrupted by the prohibition issued against gladiatorial shews soon after Christianity ascended the throne of the Cæsars. Through a strong attachment to those sanguinary entertainments transmitted from father to son since Provence belonged to the Romans, or at least, since it was subject to the kings of Aragon, the people of Arles retained the taste for bull-feasts down to the present age; wild bulls were frequently driven from the Camargue, and combats exhibited in the ancient amphitheatre before a vast concourse of spectators, who were agitated by the same fierce emotions, and expressed them with the same frantic acclamations, that resounded in the shews of ancient Rome,

Rome, and are still to be heard in the bull-feasts of Spain. The frequent loss of human lives induced government to abolish these savage sports at Arles.

This amphitheatre consists of two orders or stories of arcades, divided below by Tuscan pilasters, above by columns, of which the order cannot be discovered, as their upper part is wanting: all the shafts are less imperfect at the same height, and the sixty arches of this story remain without any stone work above them, which proves beyond a doubt that the building was never finished. There is no trace of seats, podium, or other interior works necessary for an edifice of this kind; it is placed on an eminence, and the architect has excavated the hill in such a manner as to form a subterraneous or basement floor, by means of vast galleries, halls, and recesses, which are either cut in the rock, or built with square stone. The entrance into this dark labyrinth is in the side

of the hill : it is not easy to give a rational guess at the use of these vaults, which have no communication with the upper stories ; they probably were intended for magazines and cellars.

Without the walls of the city is a rocky hill called the Eliscamps, almost wholly covered with stone coffins, in some of which were deposited the ashes of pagans, in others the bodies of Christians: the adjoining church belonging to the Minimes, is full of ancient sarcophagi, funeral inscriptions, and figures : one small mausoleum remains on the hill, with some of its colombaria or niches, wherein the urns were placed, yet entire. In the midst of the cemetery, an obelisk marks the grave of four consuls of Arles, victims to the plague of 1720, which from Marseilles spread its destructive contagion, though not with equal fatality, along the coast of the Mediterranean, and into the inland districts of Provence.

We

We were delighted with the dress of the women we met returning from market ; it reminded us of the airy garments upon the dancing nymphs of Herculaneum. These peasant girls wear light, open mantles loosely flowing to their knees, over a short petticoat, that discovers their taper legs and silk stockings ; bracelets of gold beads adorn their wrists ; a silk handkerchief confines part of their jet black locks, without hiding their keen eyes and animated countenances : this easy habit suits admirably with the elegance of their form and the suppleness of their limbs.

L E T T E R X I X.

Avignon, Nov. 10.

REMOULINS is the first port from Nimes, and near it the river Gardon has worn itself a deep bed in the heart of a wild, mountainous country ; the sides of the

the dell through which it flows are joined together by a bridge of three rows of arches, one above another, built by the Romans to support an aqueduct that conveyed the waters of two springs from Uzez to Nimes. Many fragments of this aqueduct, which was above seventeen miles long, are still standing in various parts of the hills. The above-mentioned bridge, known by the name of the *Pont du Gard*, is entire. The lowest stage or order rests upon the rock, and contains six arches, to which a collateral bridge was added in the year 1747, wide enough for carriages. The second row is composed of eleven arches, six of which are perpendicular to those of the first; a considerable part of the piers of this middle order had been scooped out to afford a passage for horsemen, but when the bridge below was doubled, this way was built up. The uppermost range consists of thirty-five arches, and above it is
the

the channel for the water covered with large flags.*

The only inscription yet discovered consists of the four letters A. Æ. A. which have occasioned a great variety of opinions and explanations among the learned.† Some attribute

* Measures. Lowest row.

Diameter of the arches	58	French feet; the middle one, under which the river passes, is 70 wide.
pillars	18	
Height	83	
Height of parapet	8	

Middle Row

Diameter of the arches	56
of the pillars	15
Height	67
Height of the parapet	6½

Uppermost Row

Diameter of the arches	17
pillars	5½
Height	32
Height of the channel for water	3½

† Not one of the applications that I have seen agrees with these initials; those who read the name of Ælius Adrianus in them did not know that Adrian is always written

attribute the work to Agrippa; others to Adrian, and others to the Antonines: it certainly does not belong to a later period, for its solidity, justness of proportion, and simplicity of style, are too striking to leave a suspicion in our minds that it could be designed or built by the artists of subsequent ages. While I contemplated this stupendous pile, stretching sublimely from rock to rock across the valley, and the broad stream of the Gardon rolling with ease through its wide arches, I felt my mind strongly impressed with veneration for those extraordinary men, who had the spirit to plan, and the force to rear such colossal monuments of their art. No difficulties could dismay them, none could occur that were not removed by their persevering efforts; the life of a Roman soldier was spent in continual toils; his vic-

written on his medals with an H. Perhaps it may be decyphered thus, *Aqueductum Ædificabat Agrippa.*

torious

torious hands, that had bowed the stubborn barbarian to the yoke, were afterwards employed in securing the tranquillity and obedience of the conquered province, by raising stupendous mounds and fortifications, or in procuring with incredible pains the conveniencies and luxuries of life for the settlements established within them : scarce is there a corner of the world, which was known to the ancients, where the traveller does not to this day, meet with stately memorials of their indefatigable and elevated genius.

Soon after quitting the vale of the Gardon we reached the top of the hills, from which we overlooked the whole Comtat Venaissin, and the city of Avignon. The Rhone itself is so broad and majestic a stream, that it suffices alone to give dignity to a landscape ; the awfulness of an immense plain terminated by the blue mountains of Dauphiné, excites sublime ideas, and rivets the
attention

attention upon the general effect of so vast a scene, without suffering it to wander, and waste itself on minuter lights flowing from the various objects that compose it.

A grand monastery of Benedictine monks at Villeneuve commands a nearer view of the river and city. At every step we advanced as we descended the hill, new beauties of prospect displayed themselves, till at last we reached the banks of the Rhone, where a venerable old tower nods over the most rapid of currents.

Here once was fixed the extremity of the bridge of Avignon, begun in the year 1177 at the solicitation of Benezet, a young shepherd, who pretended a mission from heaven for collecting alms towards building a bridge across the Rhone. The legend says that he enforced his preaching by miracles, and raised such a sum as proved sufficient not only to complete that undertaking, but also to endow a hospital, and create a fund for the

the future repairs of the bridge. Whatever we may think of the miracles of this young architect, the chronicles of Avignon attest the reality of his existence: perhaps the artful magistrates, seeing the necessity of a bridge, and conscious of their own inability to erect one, brought forward this pious artifice to captivate the benevolence, and excite the generosity of a devout and unenlightened age. This bridge was the boast of the country, but the Rhone has long torn down and buried in its whirlpools the greater part of it; at present a perilous ferry affords the only access from the western shore.

LETTER XX.

Avignon.

AVIGNON is about three miles and two furlongs in circumference, surrounded by handsome battlemented walls and turrets, not unlike those of Rome; its ditches
are

are shaded by pleasant avenues of elms. The number of inhabitants is not proportioned to the extent, for it amounts only to thirty thousand souls, of which above a thousand are ecclesiastics, and some hundreds Jews. From the opposite hills this city seems a forest of steeples, the bells of which are never at rest; by day and night scarce a minute can be counted undisturbed by some bell or other, either rousing the monks and nuns to their duty in the choir, or giving the more welcome summons to their repasts; this incessant tinkling made Rabelais call it the *Ile sonnante*, an appellation I felt all the force of during every night of our stay. One of these bells is of silver, and rung upon no occasion but the death of the Pope. Clergymen and friars swarm in the streets, as may well be expected in this little Rome, but they have not brought with them the Roman taste in building and decorating either their own abodes, or the temples of the divinity. The
streets

streets are narrow and dirty, as must needs be the case, where all manner of filth is emptied out of the windows: the dismal lanes, in which the Jews are stye'd, are absolute sinks of nastiness and infection: nothing less than the fierce and steady winds that predominate here for many weeks at a time, could purify so fetid an atmosphere, and preserve the town from plagues, and epidemical diseases.

The public edifices are large, solid, and as grand as the taste of the age could make them, for most of them were built in the fourteenth century, while the Popes resided here; they occupy the most elevated point within the walls; the cathedral is small and dull, offering nothing to the curiosity of the traveller, save a silver altar, many costly vestments, and the tombs of Pope John the Twenty-second, and Benedict the Twelfth *. The

* John the Twenty-second began his reign in 1316, died in 1334. Benedict the Twelfth was elected 1334, died 1342.

church of the Cordeliers is noted for the boldness and loftiness of its roof, but much more for the tomb of Petrarch's Laura, who during her life, and after her decease, received the tribute of his muse in more copious numbers than were ever inspired by any ancient or modern fair one: he sang her charms, and his love, in four hundred songs or sonnets. Petrarch is classed by the Italians in the first rank of poets, rather on account of the purity of his language, and the terse propriety of his expression, than either the originality and fire of his imagination, or the variety of his ideas: so greatly do his merits depend upon the manner in which he has clothed his thoughts, that it requires great habit of the Italian tongue to feel their value, and therefore few foreigners can taste his beauties in the original, or admire him when translated. Laura and her husband, Hugh de Sade, rest in an obscure corner of the church, under a monument distinguished only

only by an obliterated scroll, and a mullet, which was the arms of the family. Francis the First, himself a poet and a passionate admirer of the fair sex, caused the tomb to be opened in his presence, and having read the verses Petrarch had deposited with the remains of his adored mistress, closed down the lid, and inscribed it with some lines of his own composition. Another gallant and rhyming monarch, René of Anjou, has left many productions of his at Avignon, both in poetry and painting, but they are more curious on account of their singularity, than of their excellence.

The Romans made this one of their stations; from the destruction of their empire to the fourteenth century, Avignon experienced numberless vicissitudes of fortune, and changes of masters, in common with the rest of the country. In the year 1348 Joan queen of Naples, and countess of Provence, being driven out of Italy, and unable to re-

cover her Neapolitan crown through want of money, fold, or mortgaged this city to the Pope for eighty thousand florins of gold, not thirty thousand pounds sterling. The sovereign pontiffs fixed their seat here during a period of seventy-two years, and from hence ruled Europe with despotic sway, though at the same time they were mocked, and rejected by the factious people of Rome, and durst not trust their persons within the walls of their own capital. Gregory the Eleventh, in 1377, yielded to the persuasions of S. Catherina of Sienna, and the solicitations of the penitent Romans, and surmounting both his fear and resentment, established once more the pontifical residence at the Vatican. Since that time this territory has been governed by Legats, or Vicelegats. The Comtat Venaissin had belonged to the Pope since 1273, being a gift of Philip the Hardy, king of France.

The vices of an ecclesiastical government
always

always fluctuating and ephemeral, operate even at this distance to the discouragement of industry, trade, and population: the inhabitants scattered over the face of one of the richest plains in the universe, are not sufficiently numerous to cultivate it thoroughly; trade is not carried on with that emulation and activity, which ought to be inspired by the proximity of so noble a river, and so happy a situation, in the center of a fertile country, and upon the great roads of communication between the Mediterranean and the capital of France. Smuggling indeed is pursued in a very spirited manner with the adjacent provinces, but whether to the real advantage of the Comtat or not, is hard to determine: it either encourages idleness, or diverts the attention of the active part of the community from labours that would redound more to their own happiness, and the welfare of the state. But can it be

expected that an Italian prelate and his crew of subaltern priests, should feel themselves sufficiently interested in the prosperity of a country, where their power is short lived, and which they always consider as foreign to them, to meditate, much less to execute projects for its amelioration?

These and other reasons have led many speculators in politics to think, that the people of the Comtat would be great gainers, were the king of France to set aside the deed of sale by queen Joan, and incorporate it unalienably with the rest of his kingdom. I am clearly of another opinion; for what would the people gain? More neighbours to fill their plains and increase their culture—greater crowds on their roads, and clamour on their wharfs—more bustle in their streets, and more activity in their husbandry—some of their families would be illustrated by dignities and titles, and some enormous fortunes raised by trade, or the handling of the public

public revenue :—But with all these benefits, allowing them their highest value, must they not receive a swarm of devouring locusts, an army of tax-gatherers and monopolisers? Must not their taxes be prodigiously augmented, their salt, their tobacco, raised to such a price as to exclude the poorer class of citizens from a daily enjoyment of them? Must they not submit to the peremptory sway of intendants, subdelegates, military governors, and a long train of oppressive ministers, instead of the drowsy, but mild administration of their present masters, who want the power, if not the will, of raising more than the stipulated contributions? The inhabitants are too few for the extent of country, are indolent, and do not make the most of the riches nature presents on every side: I grant it, but they are already entitled to all the privileges of Frenchmen, if they choose to claim them, and at the same time they enjoy almost the independence of

republicans. The first necessities, and many of the superfluities of life, are cheap here; impositions are few and light; the husbandman is not dragged from his plough to garison unwholesome fortresses, or pine in the cold and wet, to guard a coast against invaders: no districts are here reserved for the diversion of their sovereign, nor are their harvests devoured before their eyes by myriads of useless animals, which it is a capital offence to destroy, or even to molest. Then where shall I find a set of men that possess such means of happiness as the cultivators of this delicious plain?

L E T T E R XXI.

Avignon.

HOW many times and how ardently have I not longed for a sight of Vaucluse; how many times have I not lamented that I had passed repeatedly through
France,

France, without extending my journey as far as the banks of the Sourgue, and the heavenly fields celebrated by Petrarch?

I have seen Vacluse, and am disappointed. A huge cavern yawning at the foot of a perpendicular wall of bare rocks, and a large body of water issuing through the chinks of the stone, from an unfathomable pool that fills the cave, are undoubtedly bold, horrid features of nature; but I have seen the like in many mountainous countries in much greater perfection: here is not a single tree, not a bush to enliven the dull uniformity of the cliff, nor any lofty barrier of rock, over which the stream may rush in grand cascades; the landscape is dreary and frightful, without romantic beauty. From the ruins called Petrarch's Villa, the view extends over a fine country, but that immediately under the eye is not agreeable, though watered by the Sourgue meandering through the meadows. Vacluse itself has not indeed answered my
too

too sanguine expectations; but it is not so with the delightful vale I traversed before I reached this head of the Sourgue. A shady avenue of elms, poplars, and mulberry trees, led me insensibly from the gates of Avignon into the heart of a most fertile garden, for I can give no other name to a vast tract of level ground, where innumerable canals of the most limpid water impart a due degree of moisture to thousands of inclosures, covered with the greatest variety of productions; artificial and natural grasses, pulse, fruits, and corn are so intermingled, as to compose a lively many-coloured parterre: a chain of hills covered with vines, and crowned with tufts of trees, serve as the border to this rich expanse.

I have also visited Orange, once the capital of a sovereign principality possessed by the families of Baux, Chalons, and last of Nassau: at present it is reunited to the royal domain. While France directed all its ef-

forts towards the destruction of the Spanish power, the Stadtholders of Holland were maintained in their possession of this little state; but as soon as William the Third declared himself the opposer and enemy of Lewis the Fourteenth, that monarch confiscated the principality of Orange; each subsequent peace stipulated its restitution, but at last, on the death of the king of England in 1702, Orange was declared to have escheated to the crown of France. This forced submission, and the demolition of the protestant churches, caused a rapid emigration, and soon reduced the city to a state of poverty and solitude. Orange was a post of consequence under the Romans, who called it *Colonia Secundanorum*, and erected many sumptuous edifices for the use and entertainment of its inhabitants: part of them are still to be seen. The principal monuments are, 1st. A triumphal arch of the Corinthian order, now menacing ruin, the pillars that
 have

have been built to support it being too weak for the purpose: it is decorated with trophies of various kinds, composed of masts, sails, and prows of galleys, shields, coats of mail, helmets, and weapons: on the shields are inscriptions not satisfactorily decyphered by the learned. On one is MARIO, on another SACROVIR, a third has AVOD, and a fourth DACVDO, most likely the names of soldiers or architects. The antiquarians of the country insist upon it that this monument was destined to commemorate the signal victory obtained by Caius Marius in the 651st year of Rome, over the joint armies of the Cimbri and Teutones; they found their arguments upon the word Mario engraved on the shield, and the head of a female figure represented looking out of a window, whom they take to be Martha the Syrian prophetess, that accompanied Marius in his Gallic expedition: but there seems to be little reason for a trophy being erected at
Orange

Orange on account of a victory gained near Aix ; besides, the naval ornaments, and the tritons at the corners, point out a combat at sea, or upon the Rhone.—Other writers conjecture that it was raised upon the defeat of the Allobroges, twenty years before. This arch is sixty feet in front, and profusely covered with sculpture, but the workmanship is not delicate, nor the design agreeable ; the style belongs to the age of Adrian and the Antonines. In that of Marius, and the conquerors of the Allobroges, architecture was in a rude state at Rome, and a monument erected by them would have been as plain and modest as this is overcharged with ornaments and ostentatious. But Rome had not then deviated so much from the austere simplicity of her republican principles, as to suffer her generals to erect trophies of their victories. 2d. The ruins of a theatre vulgarly called *Le Cirque*. This building conveys a better idea of an antique theatre,

and

and explains more clearly its forms and distribution than any remains now extant; for in all, except those of the theatre at Tuormina, the *scena* is wanting. Here it is infinitely more perfect than in Sicily, and consists of two walls thirteen feet asunder; the outermost is of the stupendous height of one hundred and fifteen feet, being three hundred and thirty in length, covered in its whole extent by a broad coping; the masonry is regular, and unimpaired. Below the coping or cornice is a row of projecting stones, bored through for the reception of tent poles, to hold the awning over the spectators. Next is a cordon, and at an equal distance beneath, another line of stones that seem intended to support the joists of a floor: under them is a range of twenty-one false arches, the center one of which exceeds the rest in height. Below is a third string of toothings, and then, resting on the ground, an arcade of seventeen arches or doors, at
different

different intervals, and various elevations ; the middle one is much higher and wider than the others. Within this vast line of building, a second wall rises to the height of the cornice, that covers the false arches ; the middle part of it is indented in a semicircular form, and was probably the *pulpitum*, or part of the stage principally devoted to the action, as two narrow side doors give admittance into it from the galleries, that filled up the space between the walls. This interior wall is joined at each end to a large square tower advancing into the *orchestra* or pit, as far as the extremity of the benches, which may yet be traced in a vast semicircle on the declivity of the hill, to a height equal with that of the front wall ; they were all so contrived as to afford the spectator a complete view of the stage from every part of the semicircle. The company entered by great gates on each side between the benches and the towers ; the actors and workmen

were

were admitted through the center door, which answered to a hall under the stage, and through four smaller doors, that opened into the lateral towers. The remaining twelve openings in the outer wall served as entrances into magazines. This lofty pile crosses at right angles a small oblong plain, even yet unincumbered with buildings; it has all the appearance of having been the stadium or field, where the Circenfian games were exhibited; many parts of the wall, such as imperfect arches, interrupted cornices, and toothings, indicate that there were galleries, and seats affixed to it for the purpose of beholding the races and other entertainments. The wall thus served a double purpose, and while it backed the *scena* of the theatre, was employed also in supporting scaffolds for the shews of the Circus: it does not seem natural that this majestic ruin should have acquired the uncommon name of a circus, had it never been any thing but a theatre, and therefore

therefore I am of opinion that the name has been handed down from the time of the Romans by a regular tradition.

The vestiges of an amphitheatre, part of an aqueduct, some mosaics, and a few inscriptions, complete the list of antiquities of Orange.

L E T T E R XXII.

Marseilles, Nov. 14.

FROM Avignon we crossed a marshy country and the river Dufance to St. Remy, a town built about a mile from the ruins of Glanum Livii. I was not able, during our short stay, to discover any other vestiges of the city than the two pieces of antiquity which had induced us to quit the post road; one is a mausoleum, the other a triumphal arch; they stand a few yards distant from each other, but it does not appear to me that there ever was any connection between them,

as is pretended by some authors, who think that they were erected by the same persons, and in the Augustan age. In my opinion they were built at very different periods of the art, the sculpture and architecture of the arch being much more chaste and perfect than those of the mausoleum; the latter is composed of a pedestal, ornamented in basso relievo with combats of cavalry and infantry, over which hangs a net full of fishes, and borne up by genii and masks; at each angle is placed an Ionic pilaster; this pedestal sustains a square mass, pierced through with an arch in each front, flanked by Corinthian columns; the architrave is charged with this inscription:

SEXLMIVLIEICFPARENTIBVSSVIS.

Sextus, Lucius, and Marcus, sons of Caius Julieius, *erected this* to their parents.

The frieze is adorned with snakes and winged dragons; above, is a circular pedestal
and

and colonnade of twelve fluted Corinthian pillars, short and thick in their proportions; the entablement is covered with a conical dome: under it appears a *togated* and a *stolated* figure of very different stature, without heads, probably the effigies of the persons to whose memory this tomb was consecrated. The whole building is light and pleasing to the eye, but upon an examination of its separate members, will be found faulty in many of its proportions; the columns are too short for their diameter, the roof is too heavy; perhaps, as was frequently the custom of the ancient masters, the architect sacrificed all consideration for the minuter parts to the general effect; and calculated the proportions so as to produce a proper sensation on the beholder at some certain point of distance, where the situation of the ground, or the projection of adjacent buildings, obliged him to take his stand to view it.

The arch has suffered severely by time

and dilapidations ; all the upper part is destroyed, and only the gateway and a portion of the side-walls subsist. In both fronts the impost, from which the arch springs, rest upon pilasters, and on each side of them are fluted columns of the Corinthian order, with their pedestals, which supported the general entablature, but scarce a third of the shafts remains. Between each pair of columns stands the figure of a slave, one male, the other female, and in the triangle above the arch are the fragments of two winged victories : the ceiling of the gateway is delicately wrought in hexagon compartments. All that is yet left of this venerable pile bespeaks the happy taste of architecture, that flourished under the first Roman emperors ; the science was then simple and correct, not yet sophisticated by that surcharge of ornament which debased and disfigured it in the following ages.

The

The country from hence grew bare and rocky; the banks of the rambling Durance stony and disagreeable.

We passed through Lambese, a town belonging to the house of Lorraine; here the committee of the States of Provence is held: the states themselves have not been called together since the year 1639; but to supply their place with greater convenience to government, the king issues out a commission annually to the archbishop of Aix, two bishops, two gentlemen, the consuls of Aix, and thirty-five deputies of districts, ordering them to assemble under the direction of the military commandant, and the intendant of the province. In this meeting are settled the free gifts to the king, and all extraordinary impositions; the method of imposing and collecting the taxes is regulated by the number of families in each district.

Aix,

Aix, the capital of Provence, and the seat of its parliament, lies in a bottom; the grounds that encircle it, are beautifully diversified. Its size is not considerable, but the streets are of a convenient breadth, the squares well planted, and the buildings solid; the town is plentifully supplied with streams of water, flowing on all sides from the impending hills.

The Cours or Orbitelle is a magnificent walk above three hundred yards long, formed by a triple avenue of venerable elms, that screen two rows of regular and stately houses; it is refreshed by four fountains; one of its extremities is closed by the front of a church, the other admits a cheerful view of the country. The cathedral is a clumsy gothic pile; the cupola of its baptismal font is supported by six columns of marble and two of granite, found among the ruins of a Roman palace. Here, and in the other churches of
the

the city, are to be seen the tombs of several earls of Provence, and some good pictures by French painters; in that of the Minims is a small elegant monument erected by Frederick the Second, king of Prussia, to the memory of his friend the Marquis d'Argens, author of the *Lettres Juives*.

The civil buildings of this place are not remarkable, nor are there any great remains of antique magnificence, though this was the first settlement made in Gaul by the Romans: one hundred and twenty-four years before Christ, C. Sextius Calvinus conducted an army hither, to succour the people of Marseilles against the Salvii, a Celtic tribe. The discovery of some tepid springs determined the consul to fix a station in this valley, and these warm baths, which by habit, were become a necessary part of the existence of a Roman, soon brought an affluence of inhabitants to the colony. The barbarian conquerors of Rome, who despised

this luxury, overturned the sumptuous edifices that defended the waters and the bathers from injury, and buried the springs under a mountain of ruins and rubbish: it is not above a century since they were accidentally brought again to light: they are scarce warm, and almost tasteless, but are drunk in spring by a concourse of people, upon whom they operate as gentle deterfive physic.

A rocky road over parched-up wastes leads across the hills towards Marseilles. It is impossible for either poet or painter to give an adequate idea of the wonderful view that burst at once upon us when we gained the summit. The brown crag, that crowns the height where we stood, slopes gently from it into thickets of evergreen flowering shrubs: these cover a large circle below, and terminate irregularly in fields of various culture, where the olive and other fruit trees are at first thinly dotted upon the grounds, but by degrees thicken into clumps, and soon into groves,

groves, till they form at last one wide expanded forest; beyond them, the apparent plain, for in reality it is a heap of little hills, is intersected in ten thousand directions by walls, near each of which stands a small pavilion called a *bastide*, as white as milk, strikingly opposed to the greens and yellows of the gardens that surround it: a dark border incloses this space, and separates it from the sea, that immense body of waters which seems to be raised half-way up to the firmament; the line of its horizon is lost at each extremity behind far distant groupes of mountains; on its surface numberless ships are scattered like white spots, changing their place with a motion not to be followed by the eye. In a semicircular bay, deeply cut into the shore, lies the city of *Marfeilles*, huddled together, and defended by the islands, that seem to block up the entrance of its narrow channel. I descended with reluctance from this commanding station,

and

and soon after beheld myself immured between high walls, suffocated with dust, and poisoned by the stench of the manure, which innumerable mules convey from the city to the vineyards.

L E T T E R XXIII.

Marseilles.

WE have settled ourselves for a month in a villa without the gates;—and from our windows enjoy a prospect of great part of the city, bay, and islands, with a fine stretch of sea and coast.

You who are acquainted with all my tastes and affections, may easily conceive how my heart must dilate, while I gaze upon so admirable a picture in this clearest of atmospheres: you also well know with what enthusiasm I am fired when I read or talk of the exploits, the arts, the learning, and the

virtues of ancient Greece ; and can therefore imagine with what veneration I view this Grecian colony, and meditate upon its history, and that incomparable system of administration, which obtained the praise of the most judicious authors among the ancients. Even now Marfeilles commands our respect as a great commercial port ; few cities can vie with it in extent of enterprize, in the various commodities displayed upon its wharfs, or in the number of vessels that sail from hence to all parts of the world ; but these advantages are not entirely its own ; it is now but an active member of a great monarchy, and I am considering it, as it once was, mistress of itself, and the benefactress of surrounding nations.

Six hundred years before Christ, the inhabitants of the Ionian city of Phoea, having joined in the general but unsuccessful insurrection of the Greek colonies in Lesser Asia, against the Persian king, fled to their
ships,

ships, and, rather than meet his vengeance, abandoned for ever the abode of their forefathers. They were long tossed about on the waves, and wandered to many ports in quest of a retreat, where they might enjoy the blessings of liberty, and the fruits of their industry : chance, or some reason unknown to us, brought them to the shores of Gaul, where they built a city, called Massylia. Their manners, institutes, and language continued for many ages to be Grecian ; their fame, as a trading nation, was equal to that of Carthage, and the spirit, with which their navigators explored unknown coasts, was celebrated by the unanimous voice of antiquity. Their political institutes and internal administration, were still more admired ; the wisdom, which directed their councils, preserved harmony at home, and eluded the malice, or repelled the insults of the neighbouring barbarians : but their safety arose from a sense of their favours, rather
than

than the terror of their arms; the Gauls were indebted to the Maffylians for instruction of every kind; the Maffylians were their masters not only in morals, politics, and learning, but they also taught them how to procure the necessaries and comforts of life with more ease and certainty, and in greater abundance. These benefits insured them the respect and gratitude of the Gauls, till commerce, which seldom fails to corrupt the people it enriches, introduced vices that poisoned the sources from whence the prosperity of the state had arisen. Then the Gauls began to perceive a change in the character of the Greeks, less probity in their dealings, and more ambition marked by the transactions of commerce; this gave birth to jealousies, and no doubt provoked the Salvians to those hostilities, which obliged the senate of Marseilles to call in the Romans, and thus afford that all-
usurping power a pretext for crossing the Alps. In the civil wars of Rome, Marseilles
took

took part with Pompey, was besieged, stormed by Cæsar, and reduced to the state of a tributary.

In the decline of the Roman empire, Marfeilles, having lost all virtue and energy with its independence, dwindled away to a mere ruin ; nor did it recover any degree of consequence till one of the kings of Arles, in the ninth century, bestowed it as an appendage upon a younger son. It remained under the government of viscounts, or of its own magistrates, till the earls of Provence conquered it.

Marfeilles stands upon a declivity and embraces the port, which runs about one thousand six hundred paces into the land. The old town is the most elevated, but it is ill built, filthy, and gloomy. The streets of the new town are spacious, and full of neat, good habitations. The Cours is a very noble street, planted with a double row of trees between lines of houses built upon a sym-

symmetrical design, and ornamented with porticos and columns. In the evening, especially that of a holiday, it is crowded with people, and forms one of the most variegated and lively scenes I ever beheld. This climate is excessively hot in summer, though tempered at certain hours by the breeze off the sea ; in winter the north-east winds that blow for many weeks together, are the most cutting I ever felt ; but when they cease, the winter days of this country are as pleasant as the finest summer ones in our northern regions.

In most of the churches are paintings of merit by Puget and other masters of the French school ; but Puget's fame arises more deservedly from his admirable works in sculpture, of which many are to be seen in this his native city. The escutcheon of the royal arms over the door of the town hall, is a piece of exquisite taste and delicacy of touch.

The

The abbey of St. Victor contains a great quantity of tombs, and ancient inscriptions, in honour both of christians and pagans. It is one of the oldest monastical foundations in France; several eminent personages have belonged to its society, and there imbibed the principles of those virtues, and the rudiments of that knowledge, which afterwards raised them to the highest dignities of the church.

The harbour is shut up with a chain, and ships of war or heavy burden usually ride at anchor in the road between the islands and the main land, but there is always a great crowd of smaller vessels in the port; the usual number to be seen amounts at least to five hundred, and it is computed that near four thousand ships and barks enter this port in the course of a year. Along the fine quay that lines it, the stir and bustle is prodigious; a moving picture that is enlivened by the great variety of dresses, the gesticulations
and

and expreffive countenances of the perfons that compofe it.

The galley flaves, except when employed at work, chained in pairs, pafs their time in a part of the quay, lying near the gallies, which are ufed merely as places of confinement ; this diftrict, I am told, is a kind of market for ftolen goods, as well as a receptacle of all forts of idle and profligate company. No place abounds more with diffolute perfons of both fexes than Marfeilles, and in the abundance of prostitutes, that appear in the ftreets, it is almoft upon a par with London.

The fortifications that defend the city on the land fide, are fuch as no military perfon would think able to refift the attacks of a regular army ; and yet the emperor Charles the Fifth was foiled in his endeavours to break through them, and obliged to make a difgraceful retreat into Italy. Several forts guard the entrance of the harbour, and high

upon the point of a mountain stands that of Notre Dame de la Garde, better known by the mention made of it in the voyage of Chapelle and Bachaumont, than by its strength, or even its image of the Madonna, the patroness of the Marseillaise sailors.

The Lazaretto is an extensive insulated building. As the Levant trade, which is the great concern of Marseilles, subjects it to the dangers of the plague, and vessels are continually arriving from the suspicious ports of Asia and Africa, the greatest care is necessary to prevent this exterminating contagion from being communicated by any infected ship. The laws of quarantine are no where better regulated, or more strictly enforced, than in this Lazaretto ; nor is this to be wondered at, for the desolation of the year 1720 may be said to be yet fresh in the memory of the inhabitants ; some survivors remain to paint the horrid scene, and keep alive the fears of those that
are

are too young to have been witnesses of that dreadful visitation of the hand of God. Above sixty thousand persons died of the disorder in the city of Marseilles; but the loss has been repaired, and it now reckons near ninety thousand souls within its walls. Of this multitude almost every individual appears to have a concern in trade: I never saw a seaport, where there was so much noise and bustle, but indeed I know no people of so lively, clamorous a turn, or so prone to boisterous joy, as that of Marseilles. The Provençal is all alive, and feels his nerves agitated in a supreme degree by accidents and objects that would scarce move a muscle or a feature in the phlegmatic natives of more northern climes; his spirits are flurried by the slightest sensations of pleasure or of pain, and seem always on the watch to seize the transient impressions of either; but to balance this destructive propensity, nature has wisely rendered it difficult for those impressions to

sink into their souls ; they easily receive, but as easily discard and forget, thus daily offering a surface smoothed afresh for new pains and pleasures to trace their light affections upon. But this by no means excludes warm attachments and solid friendships ; when time and habit afford leisure for the impression to penetrate deep enough, it will, no doubt, acquire and retain as firm a hold in their breast as in any other, and perhaps be stamped with still greater warmth and energy.

The commerce of Marseilles is divided into a multiplicity of branches ; a variety of commodities are fabricated here, or brought from the other ports and inland provinces of France to be exported, and numerous articles of traffic are landed here in order to be dispersed in this and other kingdoms. It is presumed that one year with another business is transacted upon this exchange for near fifteen millions sterling. The exports
to

to the Levant amount annually to thirty-one millions of livres ; the imports from thence are valued at fifty. Those from the West Indies and Cayenne are calculated at seventeen millions of exports, and twenty-one of imports. About three millions and a half are employed in the East-India trade, six in the corn trade, and about twenty-nine in that with Spain and the rest of Europe. Four millions worth of salt cod and train oil comes from North America ; oils from Sicily, &c. to the amount of fourteen millions, exported again in soap to nearly the same value ; as also various manufactures to the amount of two millions and an half. Add to this circulation the dealings in insurances, and profits upon bullion, and you will have a rough, but comprehensive sketch of the commerce of Marseilles.

F I N I S.

of the Indian population is very one
 million of lives. The imports from the
 are valued at about 1000 from the West
 India and Ceylon are calculated at 1000
 millions of exports and nearly one of
 exports. About three millions and a half
 are employed in the East India trade in
 the East India trade and about two millions in
 the West India and the rest of Europe.
 Four millions worth of tea and opium
 all comes from North America; all from
 India, &c. to the amount of fourteen millions
 exported again to nearly the same
 value; or about 70 millions to the
 amount of 100 millions and an half.
 Add on this the value of the sugar is
 100 millions, and the value of the opium and
 the rest of the goods that come from
 the East of the amount of 100 millions.



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